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Sunday School Leaders Shed Light On ACTION

Preparation for the 1978 ACTION campaigns includes an essential interpretation meeting at one of eight sites around Mississippi on either Feb. 13 or Feb. 14.

The eight sites for the interpretation meetings were selected for convenience of Baptists planning to hold ACTION campaigns this coming September. The objective of ACTION is to enroll people in Sunday School using proven principals.

These interpretation meetings will offer all the information necessary to carry out a campaign. A packet of materials will be available at these meetings for \$10 which includes all materials necessary for conducting such a campaign.

Chief resource people for these interpretation meetings will be Andy Anderson and Neil Jackson, Jr., both of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville; Thurman B. Prewett, di-

rector of education and promotion for Shelby Baptist Association in Memphis, Tenn.; and Jerry Massey, pastor of Kensington Baptist Church in Memphis.

Each man is an expert on the ACTION program; Anderson developed the original ACTION plan while pastor of Riverside Baptist Church in Fort Myers, Fla. He works for the Sunday School Board exclusively in promoting

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Anderson



Massey



Jackson



Prewett



Senior Adults Will Wrap 65,000 Books For Overseas

Paul Harrell (right) state Brotherhood director shows Foy Rogers, state Cooperative Missions department director, the near mountain of books accumulated during a recent book drive. Baptists had been asked to donate books for churches and mission points which have little or no literary resources. An estimated 65,000 books arrived in Jackson. Currently, senior adult groups in Jackson are being enlisted to categorize, wrap and ship the books to English-speaking pastors in the U. S. and overseas, including spots in Korea, the Bahamas, and New York City. Financing of the shipments is coming from private contributions. An 11 lb package will cost about \$2 to ship. "These books will open up opportunities for witness in libraries in these places," said Harrell, "in addition to providing basic resources for pastors with limited funds."

Keyboard Festival At Oak Forest

Polly Johnson of Clinton was one of ten participants in Category IV for the festival at Oak Forest. She rated Superior. Lillian Wadsworth, right, turned the pages for her. Raymond Ball, center, minister of music at Woodville Heights, Jackson, was the song leader who worked with her. (Story on p. 3.)

Ethiopia Off Limits, Prayers Still Get In

MEMPHIS (BP) — "We came out of Ethiopia, not in defeat, but in victory!" said veterinarian Jerry Bedsole, and eight other Southern Baptist missionaries to Ethiopia, now dispersed to other lands, nodded in agreement.

Although there are no Southern Baptist missionaries currently serving in Ethiopia because of current political conditions, Baptist missions work there still goes forward.

Agricultural missionary Lynn Groce and the other missionaries give a glowing report of how God's continuing to work in Ethiopia.

The agricultural missions project in

the Menz District is still going on, and the medical clinic in Tsai Tsina is still operating under the direction of Muko Okare, an Ethiopian layman. Muko continues to lead a regular Bible study for the Christians in Tsai Tsina, Groce reported.

The Bible Way Correspondence Course is going even greater than before the missionaries left, added Suzanne Groce. And the Ethiopian churches are still distributing the Bibles provided by the Ethiopian Baptist

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Kelly Family Sends Letter Of Thanks

Since Mrs. Kelly first learned she had an incurable cancer, the Kelly family has been on the continuous receiving end of all the empathy Mississippi Baptists and Southern Baptists have had in their power to share. We have received love in every conceivable form. Hundreds of letters, telegrams, get well cards, phone calls, prayer pledges, and other thoughtful expressions of concern have poured in from Baptist friends from all over the world. The large volume has been impossible to acknowledge. Delicious food prepared by some of the world's best cooks has flowed constantly into our home. Both our home and Amanda's hospital room took on the colorful appearance of a plant conservatory. A large number of loyal friends have spent numerous days by Amanda's bedside so that I could continue some necessary work. Other friends have helped with the care of the younger children.

Pastors and their churches have been sympathetic when it became necessary to cancel numerous appointments and meetings or substitute someone else in my place. The Baptist Building family has performed demanding schedules but at the same time assumed many of my duties to allow me to spend more time with my companion and children.

Numerous pastors and lay people have visited our home and the hospital rooms to simply say, "We care." No medical facility could have provided more expert and loving medical care than Mississippi Baptist Medical Center.

The medical teams, nurses, chaplains and other staff people have exhibited the best in Christian health ministry.

The membership and staff of the Ridgecrest Baptist Church have been an example of what Christ wants all church fellowships to be.

The climax of the love and affection our Baptist friends have shown is the Amanda Kelly Memorial Fund promoted by the Executive Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. This fund is being established with the Mississippi Baptist Foundation for the purpose of assisting the "Called Out Ones" in preparation for Kingdom service.

On behalf of Dana, Brian, Kay and myself I say, "Thank you, Mississippi Baptists, for your loving support during these days of grief. We covet your prayers for all the days ahead."

Earl Kelly



FEBRUARY 19, 1978

SPONSORED BY THE EDUCATION COMMISSION OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
460 James Robertson Highway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

Our Southern Baptist colleges, seminaries, and schools are places where young men and women are educated and equipped for various types of vocations including Christian ministry. Baptist campuses of our institutions of learning are also training grounds for mission volunteers; our schools provide a solid base WHERE CHRISTIAN VALUES MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND BOLD MISSION BECOMES A REALITY.

As Southern Baptist educational institutions, our colleges, seminaries, and schools are inseparably linked with our state conventions, the Southern Baptist Convention, and the missionary thrust of our churches. Vital dimensions in the purpose of our Baptist schools include (1) the gaining of knowledge, (2) the development of professional skills, (3) personal growth, (4) a deepening of Christian commitment, and (5) the preparation of dedicated witnesses for the tasks of Bold Mission. Pray for our colleges, seminaries, and schools that they may remain places WHERE CHRISTIAN VALUES MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND BOLD MISSION BECOMES A REALITY.

AND BOLD MISSION BECOMES A REALITY

Mississippi WMU Celebrates 100th Year

By Anne McWilliams

Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union is 100 years old in 1978—ten years older than Woman's Missionary Union, SBC.

Centennial Year is well underway, having begun with the new church year, Oct. 1, 1977. Next week, Feb. 12-18, is WMU Focus Week and would be an ideal time for some sort of Centennial emphasis in your church.

The Centennial theme and logo, "Our Best For God," were adapted from the emblem that was designed for Mississippi WMU in 1913, the 25th anniversary year of



Woman's Missionary Union, SBC.

1976-77 was a Year of Preparation. Even before then, a Centennial Committee was at work. Those appointed to the committee included all former state WMU presidents still living — Mrs. J. T. Lyons, Mrs. Ned Rice, Mrs. W. E. Hannah, Mrs. J. H. Street. Also Mrs. Vernon May served before her death. Mrs. Robert Smira, present president is a member, ex officio. Miss Edwina Robinson, retired executive director of Mississippi WMU, is chairman. Others serving are Miss Nettie Ree Traylor, retired, long-time employee of Mississippi WMU, Mrs. Zach Hederman, Mrs. Billy Williams, and Mrs. Vince Scoper.

Historical Pageant

A historical pageant, giving the highlights of the 100 years, will be presented on Tuesday night, Mar. 29, at the City Auditorium in Jackson, during the state WMU convention.

Another event during the March 28-30 convention will pay tribute to state WMU leaders of the past. A memorial service will be held at First Church, Jackson. Then wreaths will be taken to the graves of pioneer leaders buried in Jackson and Clinton: Miss Margaret Lackey, Miss Frances Traylor, Mrs. A. J. Aven, Mrs. Adelia

Hillman, Mrs. J. L. Johnson, Sr., and Mrs. George Riley.

New History Book

Covered Foundations, a new history of Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union written by Miss Marjean Patterson, executive director of the state organization will be released during the WMU convention. It deals largely with personalities. Each of the five chapters covers 20 of the 100 years. Miss Patterson said she chose the title because, "The women who were the WMU leaders in early years built foundations, knowing they would be covered over by the work of later years. We stand now on the strong foundations that they built."

At the meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1878, the Committee on "Woman's Work" brought a recommendation that the boards of the Convention organize Central Committees of women in each state represented in the Southern Baptist Convention. H. A. Tupper, secretary of the Foreign Mission Board, appointed the president and secretary for the Mississippi Central Committee.

Mississippi Baptist headquarters were in Oxford at that time. Tupper chose women whose husbands were active in Baptist affairs. He named Mrs. J. L. Johnson,

Sr. as president of the Central Committee. Her husband was a professor at the University of Mississippi and was president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. (Her great-granddaughter is Olive Hewitt Hudson, wife of the pastor at Oak Forest Church, Jackson.) Tupper selected as secretary Mrs. A. J. Quinche, whose husband was a professor at the University.

Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Quinche secured other Central Committee members. They were: Mrs. W. H. Caruthers, wife of an Oxford planter; Mrs. W. S. Webb, whose husband was president of Mississippi College for 18 years; Mrs. J. B. Gambrell, wife of the editor of the Baptist Record; Mrs. T. J. Walne, whose husband was state mission secretary for Mississippi Baptists; Mrs. Z. T. Leavell, wife of the pastor at Oxford; and Mrs. Mattie Nelson, who later became a missionary to New Orleans.

Celebration At Oxford

Since Oxford was the official starting place for Mississippi WMU, a special Centennial Celebration will be held at First Church, Oxford, on May 23, from 11 to 12:30 a.m. Chartered buses will go to Oxford from Meridian and Jackson.

Centennial mementoes are being sold at various

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Fastest Growing

Reservoir Brings Growth:

"We Never Have Too Many People;
We Just Don't Have Enough Space"

By Tim Nicholas

It seems as if most every member of Pinelake Baptist Church in Rankin County has a boat except the pastor. And that's only because he just came last August.

Lannie Wilbourn is pastor of a church in a community that exists because of a large body of water known generally as the Reservoir. Pinelake is the fifth fastest growing church in the state, according to a Home Mission Board survey. And the reservoir has caused the community to become just about the fastest growing community in the state.

Wilbourn has the statistics to support the likelihood of the community continuing to grow. Ten subdivisions are open and functioning with about 1,200 families already living in the Pinelake church area. And to this a minimum of 700 new lots being developed, "and all within two miles of the church," says Wilbourn. He recalls a banker telling him when he came to visit the community in view of a call that the reservoir community had a population of 4,000 and expected 10,000 by 1980.

It was the same kind of thinking that has loaned Pinelake over \$300,000 to build its sanctuary and education building. The first service in 1971 drew 31 people; in December, the Sunday school program averaged 166.

The church sits on five acres given it by the Rankin Baptist Association, which already had the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's mobile chapel on it waiting for a church to be born. J. C. Renfro, Rankin director of missions says that "the church's rapid growth potential was evident from its inception due to the committed leadership."

The church is in the kind of place that would attract visitors whether members did any encouraging or not. But the pastor and members do visit. In conjunction with Lakeside Presbyterian Church and Saint Marks Methodist Church, Pinelake rotates newcomer visitation. Every third month a team from one of the churches takes all the address cards obtained from the reservoir office and a water supply office and visits all the people who have moved into the area.

Information cards are shared with the two other churches and follow up is made by the individual churches which are most likely to relate to particular newcomers. In addition, the month the three churches are cooperating in a survey of the reservoir community, sharing results.

Some of the information comes from Pinelake member Bob Lambert, who writes a column for the Pearl Press and gets the inside track on community newcomers.

In addition, each Tuesday evening Pastor Wilbourn, visits people who've visited the church; then on Thursday nights he visits church members, trying to get around to all of them. "People out here want you to be genuinely their friend and pastor," says Wilbourn, "at the same time they lead extremely busy lives." Since Christmas, all of Wilbourn's visits have been made by appointment.

Yet people are coming to church. With 330 resident members, Pinelake has moved to two worship services and the new educational building is already bulging. "We've got two Sunday schools staring us in the face," says Wilbourn, who adds, "We never have too many people, we just don't have enough space."

The nine active deacons stay busy with deacon family ministry, each assigned to stay in close contact with a group of members. And the kindergarten which has 60 children enrolled is another source of prospects.

More than half the membership has been there only three years. "They can hardly get to know one another," says Wilbourn, who has instituted churchwide new member fellowships, where newcomers can meet the older members.

Bill Crawford, an insurance agent,

joined last November. "You just can't pinpoint one thing," he says about why he joined, "but the big part of church to me is the Sunday school and Bible study. We have a young couples group (all married adult classes are couples classes) and the openness and fellowship of young people studying the Bible

has been great to me."

Jim Smith joined after he moved to the area because, "I believe a person can be more effective as a member of a church in the community in which he lives."

Gaines Stegall, retired from the construction business, says the idea of a

church starting "out here seemed far fetched. Nobody had any idea this place would grow like it did.... People have moved in on top of us almost overnight.... If we hadn't started a church, someone else would have."

The flurry of growth has caused Wilbourn and church leaders to take a

look at the direction the church is heading. The deacons have endorsed a plan for setting church objectives. "We'll start with a biblical series studying the nature and mission of the church," says Wilbourn, "and follow with a brief course in management by objectives." Then a committee of members will present a package of objectives to the church.

Peggy (Mrs. W. C.) Young, who directs the children's church, believes "there are more dedicated Christians here (in reservoir community) than any area I have lived in," she says. "Most have special talent, if you can just draw it out."

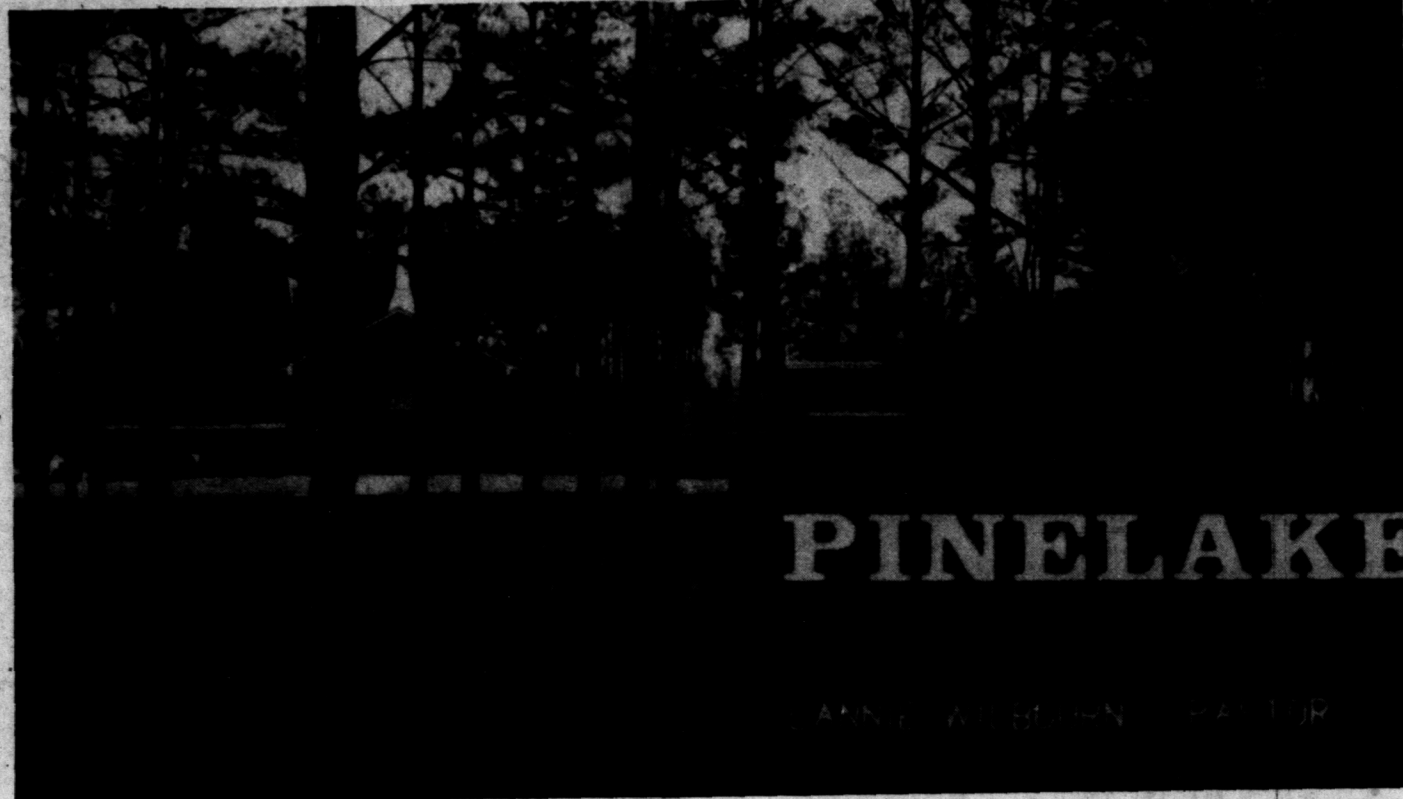
Mrs. Young says Wilbourn has a way of drawing talent out of people. "If you feel a need and can express it to him, he'll say, let's try it." One member requested a ministry to retired people; that is being considered now.

Wilbourn is using the resources of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, too. Ray Grissett of the convention board staff is talking with him about a mobile home park ministry. Mose Dangerfield helped reorganize the Sunday school; Foy Rogers discussed the possibility of a resort ministry, utilizing summer workers in a campground ministry.

The church is planning to start Sunday school classes in two of the community subdivisions before next summer. A medical student, Rocky Crocker, works part time as youth minister, planning witness training for the youth. Music minister Joe Collum, leads a full slate of age group choirs.

Wilbourn is happy about the future of Pinelake Baptist Church. "There's a whole barrel full of opportunities. I can't imagine any place more exciting to be."

(Last in a series on the fastest growing churches in Mississippi.)



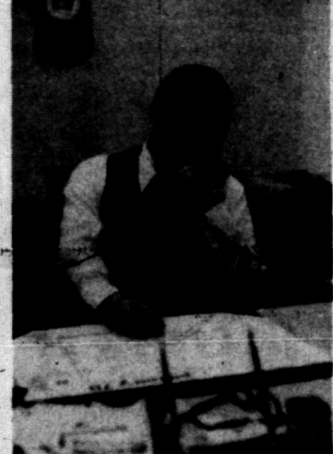
Pinelake Baptist Church got its name honestly. The reservoir is also clearly visible from the churchyard.



Clyde and Erlene Anthony live by the water that's drawing thousands of newcomers to the reservoir area. Here they stand on their patio which offers a view of the water and their well-kept yard.



S. C. "Jay" Gartman, a veterinarian, sits in bed preparing for open heart surgery. Lannie Wilbourn visits him in the hospital. Gartman's wife Jo Anne, says that since Lannie has been pastor, "we have never come when he was not ready to slip into the pulpit and feed us."



Bill Crawford, 31, an insurance agent, says the fellowship of young people studying the Bible has been great to him.



Jim Smith, 34, an exploration geologist, joined Pinelake last October, says he moved out to the reservoir area, "among other reasons, for soil conditions."

Christopher Pool, Retired Missionary, Dies

SAN ANGELO, Tex. (BP) — J. Christopher Pool, 72, died unexpectedly at his home here Jan. 21. The former Southern Baptist missionary had served for 38 years in Nigeria and Liberia prior to his retirement in 1972.

The funeral was to be held Jan. 24 at First Baptist Church here with burial the following day at Lockhart, Tex. H.

Cornell Goerner, retired area secretary for West Africa for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, was to participate in the funeral on behalf of the board.

Appointed in 1934, Pool and his wife Elizabeth were stationed for 37 years in Ogbomoso, Nigeria, where he was principal of the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary. During his tenure, the school developed from a

three-student institution to one of the largest seminaries in Africa. He spent his last year on the field opening new work in the Nimba area of Liberia.

Survivors include his wife; two daughters, Frances (Mrs. John) Harren of Annandale, Va., and Carolyn (Mrs. Richard L.) Bullington of Centerville, Va.; a son, James C. Jr. of Hawaii; and several grandchildren.

Ethiopia Is Off Limits; Prayer Still Gets In

(Continued from page 1)

Mission. In the capital city of Addis Ababa, the Reading Room full of Christian literature operated by the Baptist Mission is still open, and two nights a week, the Ethiopians are showing Christian Bible films provided by Baptists to 200-300 people.

About 15-20 employees of the Baptist Mission are still working daily, running the mission enterprise. And through a special "management trust" arrangement, the mission is continuing to pay the salaries of the office workers, guards, gardeners, secretaries, and employees.

Many of the programs initiated by the missionaries are continuing to operate through the Ethiopian Christians and the management trust.

In the absence of the missionaries, the "trustee" who manages the missions work and more than \$1 million of property is Habti Tessaybe, who was the accountant at the Good Shepherd School adjacent to the mission compound.

"We didn't want to leave the idea with the Ethiopian government that we were abandoning everything when

the missionaries left Ethiopia, for everyone is hoping to return someday to Ethiopia," explained Ed Mason, Tallahassee, Fla., attorney who worked out the trust management while a volunteer business manager in Ethiopia.

Neither did the mission want to dismiss the faithful Ethiopian employees. Because of the difficult situation in Ethiopia, it has been extremely difficult for the people to find work.

The missionaries agreed that the spiritual experiences that came because of the tension during those last months in Ethiopia were tremendous.

"Spiritually, it was a fantastic experience," said Bedsole. "God was answering prayers day by day."

They all said they felt the power of prayer most intensely after missionary doctor Sam Cannata was imprisoned for 16 days, April 3-19, on a firearms technicality.

During his time of imprisonment, Dr. Cannata prayed, sang, read the Bible and witnessed to others in prison. "It was wonderful to be in jail for awhile," he recalled. "I read and prayed as I had never prayed before."

His wife Ginny was given free access

meals. "The nights were the worst time," she said. "I was afraid they would take him off during the night." To dispel her fears that he would not be there, she sang songs of praise at the top of her lungs on her way to take his breakfast.

On the Sunday before his Tuesday release, members of the church the missionaries attend in Addis Ababa decided to pray around the clock for the next 48 hours for Dr. Cannata's release. On Tuesday, Dr. Cannata was so convinced of his impending release that he placed all his belongings in a bag and got ready to leave.

Mrs. Cannata, meanwhile, had located the report on her husband and found an Ethiopian colonel who said he would get her husband's release if he could get a paper signed by Dr. Cannata's interrogators. Almost miraculously, the interrogators walked into the colonel's office with the release paper just before closing time.

Cannata and his wife, Mason and Bedsole arrived at the mission station in the last two minutes of the 48-hour prayer vigil. Cannata is writing a book about his experiences.

Mississippi WMU Is 100

(Continued from page 1)

WMU meetings this year. They include such items as key rings, bookmarks and ceramic plates bearing the Centennial logo.

Centennial tours will be provided May 29-June 3 at places of historical significance for Mississippi WMU: Natchez, Columbus, Brandon, Clinton, Jackson, Vicksburg, Grenada, Carrollton, and Camp Garaywa.

WMU organizations in local churches are encouraged to wear period costumes to Centennial events. The state WMU office has available for 50 cents a set of pictures of period dresses, 1878-1978.

The history of your church and associational WMU should be written or updated this year. Recognition for long years of service in Woman's Missionary Union should be given in local churches and associations.

Activities for each age-level have been planned and the plans distributed to the churches. These suggest such celebrations as Centennial fairs, monologues, study retreats, short story contests, prayer retreats, banquets, quilting parties, tasting bees, "Celebrate 100 Puppet Theater," 100th year birthday parties, WMU "woman of the month," dolls dressed in period costumes. Some of the Centennial activities can be correlated with Bold Mission activities.

A poster sets forth 14 goals for the Centennial year for the WMU in every church. They are:

1. Participate in a Centennial prayer retreat.
2. One or more additional WMU age-level organizations.
3. Net increase in WMU membership and increased participation in each existing organization.
4. WMU training activities within the church involving age-level leaders and members.
5. Representation at state leadership training.
6. Family units engaging in Missions experiences.
7. Promotion of Cooperative Program giving.
8. An increase in each of the quarterly special mission offerings.
9. WMU history of the church written or updated.
10. Centennial emphasis during WMU Focus Week, February 12-18, 1978.

11. Representation at WMU Centennial Convention, March 27-29, 1978.
12. Observance of 100 Days of Prayer, March 30-July 7, 1978.
13. Study of "Covered Foundations," history of Mississippi WMU.
14. One or more organizations in each age level receiving recognition on its respective achievement guide.

A hymn writing contest was used to choose a Centennial hymn, to the tune, "Our Best." However, the judges did not choose one entry as a winner. Rather they combined fragments from several entries. For instance, the first line, "Now is the time for praise: 'Thanks be to God!'" was contributed by Sarah Peugh of Aberdeen.

WMU Centennial Hymn

(TUNE: "Our Best")

Now is the time for praise: "Thanks be to God"
For those who've gone before—pathways they trod.
So lead us, Lord, like these faithful to be
Working together, leading souls to Thee.

Refrain:

May we always work in Jesus' name
Every corner of the world to claim.
Faithful to pray, to give, to do God's will,
To give our best for God, His task fulfill.

Ten decades now are past; new days we face.
We pray for vision, Lord, mercy and grace.
Cleanse us from sin within, humbly we ask,
To win our land for Christ, our missions task.

All nations under God—eternal plan.
"Love me with all thy heart" is His command.
Go ye to all the world, go win the lost.
Sound forth the joyous news: Christ paid the cost!

1063 Young People Register For Fifteen Keyboard Festivals

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

Kim Gadd, age 7, was the youngest pianist in the District Keyboard Festival at Oak Forest Church, Jackson, Saturday morning, Jan. 28. She was one of 149 who took part there.

Kim played "Holy, Holy, Holy," in Category I, simplified arrangement with no pedal. She lives in Grenada, having just moved from Greenwood, and represented Emmanuel Church. Her piano teacher is Mrs. Gale Dorroh.

The Oak Forest festival was one of 15 District Keyboard Festivals held Jan. 26, 27, and 28. For all of these, 1063 registered. These were sponsored by the Church Music Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Dan Hall, director, and were coordinated by Dot Pray, keyboard specialist for the department.

Not competing with each other, the festival participants were given ratings ranging from Good to Superior. Performances had to earn a certain number of points from the judges or no ratings were given. Those in the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades (piano and organ) who rated superior may take part in the State Festival to be at William Carey College Feb. 24 and 25.

Polly Johnson of First Church, Clinton, was one of ten Category IV participants at Oak Forest. (There are four categories in all.) In that category she had to play a hymn, a classical selection, and an anthem. She chose to play "Crown Him" "Clair de Lune," and "My Life, My Love, I Give to Thee." Three judges (Edith Ballard, Carol Durham, and Nan Grantham) rated her on a scale of 1 to 10.

To get a Superior rating on hymn playing, Polly had to earn at least 26 points from the three judges. She did rate Superior. Since she is in ninth grade, though, she is not yet eligible to take part in the state festival. She was judged on accuracy, tone and technique, interpretation, rhythm, pedal, accompanying congregational singing, and appearance. Her piano teacher is Mrs. D. E. Landrum.

Edith Ballard is on the faculty at Hinds Junior College and organist at First Church, Raymond; Carol Durham is organist at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, and Nan Grantham is music assistant at Broadmoor Church, Jackson. They were numbered among the 19 judges at Oak Forest and the 181 judges working in the 15 festivals. Some leaders helped,

too, to direct congregational singing when needed.

Jerry Talley, minister of music at Oak Forest Church, was coordinator of the Oak Forest festival. Other festivals, their coordinators, and the number attending were: First, McComb, Buddy Casey, 100; Immanuel, Cleveland, Tom Mercier, 171; Temple, Hattiesburg, Graham Smith, 19; First, Holly Springs, Ralph Thomason, 28; Broadmoor, Jackson, J. M. Wood, 60; First, West Point, John McCall, III, 86; First, Laurel, Billy Vaughan, 160; First, Kosciusko, Mrs. Pauline Moore, 69; Ridgecrest, Jackson, David Worthington, 24; Highland, Meridian, Senita Webb, 36; Woodlawn, Vicksburg, Gary Hodges, 38; West Jackson Street, Tupelo, Harold Smith, 81; First, Gulfport, Jimmy Cutrell, 26; and First, Natchez, Ken Miller, 16.

Judges were piano teachers, church organists, music professors, and other accomplished musicians.

A representative from the Church Music Department was present at every festival. Sarah Talley represented the department at the Oak Forest festival.

"During the year piano and organ teachers encouraged their students to enter the festivals. We try to make this a happy experience for the young people," Dot Pray said, "so they will think of church music as a happy experience."

Evidently the festival is a happy experience for many, because this year 1063 registered, or 303 more than the 732 of last year.



Kim Gadd, 7, of Grenada, was the youngest participant in the festival at Oak Forest. She played in Category I.



Judges of Category IV for the District Festival at Oak Forest Church, Jackson, were Edith Ballard, Carol Durham, and Nan Grantham.

Participants are required to pre-register, and a booklet of rules, the Mississippi Baptist Festival Handbook, is distributed by the Church Music Department each year.

All these registration forms were coming in at the time of the heavy

snow in mid-January. Snowed under with work and anticipating being snowed under literally, the secretaries in the Church Music Department took their typewriters home with them so that they could keep right on getting ready for the keyboard festivals.

Home Missions Offering Reaches 95.52 Percent

ATLANTA (BP) — The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions received \$10,745,967 during 1977, or 95.52 percent of its goal of \$11,250,000.

William G. Tanner, executive director - treasurer of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, announced final receipts of the offering taken each year by the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union for the support of home missions work in the United

States and its territories.

"We could probably say this is the largest offering ever given for home missions anywhere in the world," Tanner said in his report. "This is very encouraging to me. I never cease to be amazed at the way Southern Baptists give."

The 1977 offering is \$1,114,911 more than the amount received in 1976, Tanner said.

Herman Hayes Named FMB Recruitment Manager

Herman P. Hayes, Southern Baptist missionary for nearly twenty years, has been named manager of the Recruitment Section of the Department of Furlough Ministries at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board home office here.

A former pastor in McComb, Miss. Hayes was requested to leave his most recent assignment as a Field Evangelist in Klaten, Indonesia to begin work here.

In his new position he will promote and coordinate placement of furloughing missionaries in recruiting opportunities; develop and lead recruitment training seminars at furlough conferences; conduct research; and work with seminaries which use furloughing missionaries in their campuses.

Hayes and his wife, the former Dottie Primeaux, were appointed missionaries to Vietnam in April 1959. At that time he was pastor of South McComb Baptist Church in Miss. — a post he held for three years. From 1951

to 1954 he was pastor of Locust Street Baptist Church in McComb. Also in McComb Mrs. Hayes taught in a junior high school. Both are Louisiana natives.

Stationed in Saigon, Vietnam from 1959 until 1969, the couple organized the first Vietnamese language Baptist church there. Hayes was its first pastor. For one year they also lived in Dalat, Vietnam. They pioneered evangelistic work in Cantho from 1969 until 1971.

Following the communist take over of Vietnam, they were stationed in Bandung, Indonesia for a year of language study. Later they were assigned to Klaten.

The Hayes have three grown children.

Whether your influence on people is good or bad depends on whether they are better or worse than you. — Herald, Rutland, Vt.

Allen, Tanenbaum Set For ABC-TV Dialogue

FORT WORTH (BP) — Jimmy R. Allen, president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), and Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum of the American Jewish Committee, will participate in a nationally televised conversation program on ABC-TV, Feb. 12.

Appearing on the network's "Directions" program, sponsored by the SBC Radio and Television Commission in cooperation with ABC, Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church, San Antonio, and Tanenbaum will discuss human values and some of the understandings which

developed from a dialogue seminar between Baptists and Jews in December in Dallas. The seminar was sponsored by the Christian Life Commission of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and the American Jewish Committee, which Tanenbaum serves as national director of inter-religious affairs.

"Directions," ABC's public affairs program, will be aired on the network at 12:30 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, although local stations may vary time of broadcast.

Young Ministers' Wives Gather At Garaywa

By Anne McWilliams

Peggy Allen, wife of Dennis Allen, pastor of Olive Church, Lumberton, and Susan Todd, wife of Jerry Todd, minister of music at the same church, arrived at Camp Garaywa on Friday afternoon, Jan. 27, to attend the Young Ministers' Wives Retreat. They did so in spite of cold winds and snow flurries in Jackson and Clinton. Besides these two, 30 others arrived, to stay for the Jan. 27-28 sessions sponsored by the state WMU. (One hundred and twenty-five had pre-registered).

Guests at the retreat included young ministers' wives (under 40) and other young wives as well — wives of ministers of music, educa-

tion directors, student directors, and other religious workers.

The program which began Friday night with supper at 6:30, adjourned Saturday afternoon, Jan. 28, at 2:30. The theme was "Road To Spiritual Growth."

"A church is never going to exceed the vision of its leadership," Marjean Patterson pointed out as she led in a study of 1 Timothy. Peggy Hicks, homemaker, was snowbound in Louisville, Ky., where she lives, and did not arrive to speak as scheduled on the subject, "Deepening my Spiritual Life." Instead, Miss Patterson, executive director, Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, led in the Bible study.

Missionary speakers were Glenna



Susan Strickland, right, of Clinton, secretary to the executive director, Mississippi WMU, assisted in registering 92 women for the Young Ministers' Wives Retreat.

Stamps, Nicaragua; Flora Holifield, Italy; and Zelma Foster, missionary to the Philippines for many years, whose husband is now a pastor at Natchez. (Jean Jacobs, director of public relations at Clarke College and former missionary to Guyana, was to have been a fourth missionary speaker, but because of her father's illness didn't attend.)

Jan Cossitt, activities director at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, directed icebreaker games that introduced the Friday night program and helped everybody get acquainted. In "Find a Person," the

women had to answer 20 questions — some easy like "Who is wearing a stick pin?" and some more difficult, like "Whose husband talks in his sleep?"

Miss Cossitt led a Saturday morning interest group, too, on "making puppets." Betty Bingham explained to one group "how to make macrame" and Susie Harrison talked about "the art of flower arranging." Mrs. Bingham, Jackson, is office secretary, Evangelism Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and Mrs. Harrison is a Clinton homemaker.



Holifield

Stamps

Patterson

Foster

Thursday, February 9, 1978

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 3

Home Mission Study February 19-22

Each February a study of the Home Mission Board Graded Series is scheduled to help church members learn more about the challenge and the work of home missionaries and to promote the Week of Prayer for Home Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. The Woman's Missionary Union and the Brotherhood coordinate this churchwide project.

The books to be studied are: ADULTS — The Leaven and the Salt by M. Wendell Belew; YOUTH — Step Over This Line by Toby Druin; OLDER CHILDREN — Hands Can Say Hello by Hettie Johnson; YOUNGER CHILDREN — Helpers With Hammers by Frances Andrews.



Garaywa Gets Central Air

Fran Pickett, director of Camp Garaywa, watches a workman install insulation for the central air conditioning and heating which is going into the dining hall of the WMU camp at Clinton. In addition they're adding central air and heat to the guesthouse and auditorium, and renovating the three bathhouses, for a total cost of \$150,000. Financing comes from state missions offerings, WMU Special Day Offering (May 1) and individual gifts. O. L. Ellis, Jr., a member of FBC, Clinton, is contractor.

Keyboard Seminar Offers Piano, Organ Specialists

Organists and pianists of all denominations are invited to participate in a statewide Keyboard Seminar to be held Feb. 17-19 at Jackson's First Baptist Church.

The seminar begins at 3:30 p.m. on Feb. 17, with a reception for the clinicians, and music and fine arts department personnel from state Baptist schools. It adjourns at 12:30 p.m. on Feb. 18.

Sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Music Department, the seminar will feature as guest clinicians, Donald P. Hustad, of Louisville, Ky.; and Max D. Lyall, of Mill Valley, Calif.

Hustad, organ clinician, has been professor of church music at Southern Seminary in Louisville since 1966. He earned his masters and doctorate in music from Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill. He has also served on the music staffs of Olivet College, Moody Bible Institute, and has served as a team organist for the Billy

Graham Evangelistic Association.

Lyall, a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University earned a master's degree in music from the University of Oklahoma. He has worked for the church music department of the Sunday School Board and was associate professor of music at Belmont College in Nashville.



Lyall

Hustad

Lyall has also been piano and harpsichord soloist with the Nashville Symphony, the Nashville Chamber Orchestra and the Nashville String Quartet.

For information on registration, write Church Music Department, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205. Deadline for registration is Feb. 13. Registration fee will be \$10.

Church music department director is Dan Hall; keyboard specialist coordinator is Dot Pray.

Kagoshima, Japan — The first Japanese Baptist Evangelism Conference, held in the Kagoshima Baptist Church here, attracted 145 registrants and a total attendance of more than 200. Another conference, to encompass the entire island of Kyushu, is planned for August. Several years of planning by a committee from the Japan Baptist Mission (organization of Southern Baptist missionaries) and another committee of national pastors resulted in the two-day conference.

Sunday School Leaders ...

(Continued from page 1)

ACTION throughout the Southern Baptist Convention.

In addition, staffers in the Mississippi Baptist Sunday School Department will serve as resource personnel during these meetings on the 13th and 14th of Feb. They are: Billy Hudgins; Bryant Cummings, department director; Mose Dangerfield; and Judd Allen.

The meetings are as follows. On Feb. 13: Calvary Baptist Church in Batesville; Ackerman Baptist Church in Ackerman; Bay Vista Baptist Church in Biloxi; and Forest Baptist Church in Forest.

On Feb. 14: Northside Baptist Church in New Albany; Eastwood Baptist Church in Indianola; Halbert Heights Baptist Church in Brookhaven; and Temple Baptist Church in Hattiesburg.

Each meeting begins at 7 p.m., concluding at 9.

Prewitt and Hudgins will be at Batesville and New Albany; Massey and Dangerfield at Ackerman and Indianola; Cummings and Anderson at Biloxi and Hattiesburg; and Jackson and Allen at Forest and Brookhaven.

The pastor and Sunday School director and other interested persons are urged to attend one of the conveniently located meetings. Commitment of churches and associations to carry out the ACTION enrollment plan will be made in February and March.

Action

The community around First Church, Brandon, is one that has experienced rapid growth in the past few years. As the church staff, led by Pastor Tommy Baddley, looked for a better way to reach people in the community, they chose Action.

"The church was soon aware that this was a wise decision," reports Jim Didiak, education director.

On a Sunday evening about two months prior to the campaign, Larry Salter, associate, Sunday School Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, explained the program in an interpretation meeting. Following this meeting the church voted to accept the program.

In the weeks that followed all phases of the program were promoted. The church invited Wayne Jenkins of First Church, Lafayette, La. to come and lead the campaign.

On Action Sunday over 50 members went out in the church's Task Force. Also enlisted were Telephoners, Anglers, and Bus Workers to complete the outreach. As results were tabulated, over 90 people had been enrolled.

"But the side effects were even better," says Didiak. "There was a new enthusiasm in our Sunday School. On Welcome Sunday we had 726 in attendance. Prior to Action we had averaged about 550. During the months that followed, we have averaged close to the 600 mark."

"Our church still feels the effects of Action. Our community was made aware that we cared about them. Since the main campaign emphasis three months ago, we have added a net total of 139 new people to our Sunday School."

"Action can work. The secret is asking God's leadership and believing in what your church can do."



Peggy Allen and Susan Todd, both from Olive Church, Lumberton, asked each other some questions in "Find a Person" before going on to learn some new names.

The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Editorials

Title IX Provisions . . .

Seminaries Didn't Defy Government

A few weeks ago the Baptist Record printed a story concerning the fact that the federal government, expressly the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, is calling on New Orleans Seminary and Southeastern Seminary to return report forms concerning their compliance with Title IX of the governmental regulations on non-discrimination on a sex basis.

The seminaries had not returned the forms because the regulations had pointed out that only those institutions

receiving federal funds needed to return them.

Thus the two seminaries forgot the matter. They receive no federal funds.

Forgot it, that is, until they began to get letters from the department demanding to know why the seminaries had not complied with their regulations by returning the report forms.

At the last report received by this paper, the seminaries still had not returned the forms. Hopefully, this is still the case.

The seminaries have violated no

regulation. The requirements evidently were plainly stated in not requiring a return if no tax money were involved.

These two seminaries and the other four that are owned by Southern Baptists have nothing whatever to do with the federal government. They are financed in the most part by Cooperative Program funds that come from a broad base of people, but it is not public tax money. It is from voluntary contributions of Baptist people who also are paying taxes but didn't want any of

that tax money back for their own private schools.

We say, Hooray for New Orleans and Southeastern.

The federal government has a lot of red tape. In fact, it has so much that it can't keep up with what it's doing. It pokes around into the private sector of our lives to a great extent at the very least. It certainly does not need to be poking where it has no business.

So, stick to your guns, seminaries.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH . . .

Can Have A Ministry

We hope it is evident to all readers that the Baptist Record is not a vehicle to publish only the opinions of the editor. We do publish opinions with which we do not necessarily agree because we feel the writer is entitled to his opinion, and the paper is as much his as it is anyone's.

From time to time, however, we may exercise our prerogative also of differing with one of those writers on a point or two, but always, we hope, in a spirit of love.

Such is the case as we differ with a respected writer who indicated his feelings that separate worship ser-

vices for children are out of place. Of course there are many factors that have a bearing on this matter, and they cannot all be discussed. Briefly, however, let's look at two or three which would seem to indicate that in some instances, at least, a worship service for children seems a wise move.

The writer's church might serve as an example. We have a separate children's worship service. In the first place, it is likely that the children come nearer to having a worship experience when they are meeting to themselves in much more relaxed sur-

roundings than are generally found in a regular worship service. In our case, the same preacher who preaches to the children preaches to the rest of us. But in the second place, he tailors his message to the children when he speaks to them, and very likely they get a great deal more out of it than if they were sitting in the auditorium. And in the third place, if they were sitting in the auditorium, there would be 20 to 30 adults who wouldn't have any place to sit; for the auditorium is always full.

Probably there is no way to make a blanket statement that children's church is either good or bad. In our case, however, we feel it is very good.

Guest Opinion . . .

First In A Good Cause

By Edgar R. Cooper, Editor
of Florida Baptist Witness

One of the first illustrations I remember during the early years of my ministry was that of a boy who had made a sailboat, put it in the water for a trial run and lost it when the wind blew it out of his reach and sight. Later the boy saw his boat in the window of a pawnbroker. Someone had found it and hocked it. The pawnbroker was sympathetic with the boy's plea that the boat was his, but the pawnbroker wanted the money he had invested in it. The boy worked long and hard for enough money to redeem the boat he had originally made and owned. When he walked out of the shop with the boat cradled in his arms he said, "Now you are mine twice — first because I made you and second because I bought you." The story was often used to illustrate God's right to claim us as His own — first by creation and second through the price paid for our redemption.

This story came to mind when I recently learned that the First Baptist Church in Jacksonville had purchased an education building they had built and lost years ago.

The seven-story edifice was constructed in 1927 during the still-remembered Florida Boom. The cost was \$435,000. First Baptist floated a \$500,000 bond issue at six percent interest to pay for the building and the remodeling of the sanctuary. The bonds, held by a bank in New Orleans, were secured by a blanket mortgage on the church property. By 1930 the debt had climbed to \$600,000 and the church enjoyed the dubious distinction of laboring under the largest debt in the Southern Baptist Convention.

The boom went bust, times grew harder, circumstances intervened and the church failed in servicing their debt. It is reported that no payments were made on the bonds for 12 years, 1926-38. Foreclosure proceedings were instituted. However in 1938 a financial arrangement that had been made with Gulf Life Insurance Company enabled the church to save their buildings from foreclosure and complete loss. Through this transaction worked out by the church and Gulf Life, the insurance company acquired the education building and the sanctuary but sold in the sanctuary back to the congregation for \$89,000. The education building then became the home office for Gulf Life in 1938 and remained so until 1967.

Now 40 years later the congregation of the largest Southern Baptist Church in Florida, with 7,826 members and an annual budget of \$1,600,000, has purchased the building they originally constructed. In a sense it is theirs twice — first when they built it and second when they bought it. It is a success story that brings a feeling of satisfaction to the soul. So far as we know it is the first time in the history of Florida Baptists that a church has lost a building and then regained it for Christian use after so many intervening years. However, First Baptist has been "first" in many good and interesting projects.

When the late E. D. Solomon became editor-manager of the Florida Baptist Witness in 1931 he started the church budget plan. Solomon believed that the state paper should be sent to every church family and that the subscription cost should be included in the church budget. First Baptist Church of Jacksonville was the "first" church to put the budget plan into action. In the June 19, 1931 issue of the Witness the pastor, F. C. McConnell, addressed the following article to his congregation:

"It is an attainment to be first in any good cause. Your church is the first to put the paper in its budget. The Florida Baptist Witness will come to your home every week with a message of good cheer, fine fellowship, informing articles, valuable information and the latest news from the churches. This paper stands for the things you love, advocates the doctrines you believe and promotes the cause you foster. It will knock out the gable end of your ignorance and let in the sunlight of knowledge. It will broaden your horizon so you can see afar. It will inspire your heart so you can love a lost world. It will enlighten your mind so you may know the truth. The truth shall make you free. This paper comes to you in exactly the same way your Sunday School literature does except it is handed to you and the Baptist Witness is mailed to you. We want you to receive it as a gift from your church, welcome it as a collaborator in Christ's Kingdom. Read it so it may bless you with its ministry. Preserve it so it will always be ready to inform you. Commend it to others so they may share its blessings. Read it to your children. The Bible will give them the acts of the Apostles, the Witness the acts of Florida Baptists. Dr. Gambrell said, 'A newspaper can be, and a good one is, the greatest instrument of good wielded by any man. It has more eyes to see, more hands to work, more feet to go, more tongues to talk than anything else known to civilization.'"

What McConnell wrote about the Witness then is true now.

Editor's note: Readers will recognize that J. B. Gambrell, who was responsible for the final quotation in the above, was the first editor of the Baptist Record.

Book Reviews

PRAYER MEETING RESOURCES, Volume I by Russell H. Dilday, Jr. (Convention, 96 pp., \$4.95) This book is designed to help pastors lead their churches in these Bible topics: book of James (6 sermon studies) doctrine (10 sermon studies), prayer (6 sermon studies), and family (6 sermon studies). Suggested congregational worship activities are included.

THE "I FEEL" FORMULA by Robert R. Ball (Word Books, 120 pp., \$5.95) Sometimes we say one thing and mean another, when we are really trying to get the attention of the other person in the room and make that person respond to us in a caring way. This book is about developing our capacities for being understood and for understanding. The author, a Presbyterian preacher, talks about the way that God found to communicate with us — "through a feeling Word, a personal Word, a human Word . . . Jesus Christ . . . the Word above all words."

PEARL by Donita Dyer (Tyndale, paper, \$4.95, 254 pp.) The true story of teenage Pearl Kashishian, who narrowly escaped Turkish marauders in her Armenian village and fled to America and the man whom she had never met but was pledged to marry. She settled in Southern California where her dedicated and unusual life touched many for Christ.

ABORTION AND THE MEANING OF PERSONHOOD by Clifford E. Bajema (Baker, 107 pp., \$1.25) Practically presents the medical, psychological, emotional, and sociological aspects of abortion. Helps clarify the basic issues for readers on both sides of the questions. The manner is thorough, logical, and firm. Appeal is to the reason and not to the emotion.

Talebearing

The words of the talebearer are as wounds and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly (Proverbs 26:22). Words can wound a person more than a two-edged sword. They cut deep into the heart and make the spirit cower. When the spirit of man is wounded he loses faith in himself. Are you one to repeat something unkind about a person? How often we can consciously repeat a tale that we've heard! In each telling it grows larger and more different than it was originally, like the game children play called "Gossip." Refuse to carry unkind thoughts in your mind. Close your ears to whisperings. Be one less to carry the tale, Who knows? You may be the one to stop it. — Lena Scott Price



Faces And Places

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

Marian Grant, writer of "A Woman's Viewpoint" for North Carolina's Biblical Record, gave some good illustrations of "healthy laughter." She said that the newsletter of Tabernacle Church in New Bern told how the associate pastor, John Thompson, rounded a corner in the church and collided with a little boy. They both went down with little Gregory Dixon flat on his back and Thompson on his knees over him. With Greg saucer-eyed with surprise and fright staring up at him, the older man said as casually as if they'd just been introduced, "How are you today?"

Another story she told — from New Bern also — had it that the associate pastor stood at a door, waiting to enter because the silence apparently indicated the class was in prayer. After a while he opened it anyway. It was a closet.

And teacher Ruth French, Grant wrote, tells about a little boy in her Sunday school class who knew the names of the men in the fiery furnace — Shadrach, Meshach, and a Billy Goat.

When Ralph Langley was in Mississippi for the Smith County Bible Conference he left me a copy of his church bulletin (he's pastor of the Willow Meadows Church, Houston, Tex.) Since I like dogs, the following account caught my eye:

"Let me tell you a cute dog story. You know how much I love dogs. In early December I received a lovely Christmas card from the T. W. Wilsons of Montreat, NC. T. W. is Billy Graham's boyhood friend (brother is

Grady Wilson) and together the Wilsons are Billy's "right-arm and left-arm," take your choice! On the Christmas card an impressive picture of T. W. and wife Mary Helen and daughter Sally and their dog, a cute little dachshund (but the dog not identified by name.) So I rushed a letter off urgently asking the dog's name, so glaringly omitted. Back came this letter:

"Dear Dr. Langley: Here in North Carolina I live a dog's life. You were so kind to ask my mother, Sally Wilson (my grandfather T. W. Wilson), about me. You are the first person who has been kind enough to mention me with all of the T. W. Wilson Christmas card photographs. I hope to see you personally some time. Lovingly, Missey Wilson (Missey's paw stamped here in blue ink.)"

Our printer, Benton Cain of Cain Lithographer's, regularly prints a little booklet called *Cheer*. It includes jokes, quotations, cartoons, etc., and I always enjoy reading it. In one of those booklets I found a thought by Roy L. Sinclair. It really cheered me when I was down in the dumps about getting old.

"Yes, time took the roses from my cheeks, but he left a cameo instead of tiny lines that tell of laughter, deeper ones that speak of pain — all so delicately wrought that the etching tells the story of a life full lived. For the sparkle in my eyes, he gave me retrospect and vision. For the luster in my hair, he gave me silver. For the spring in my step, he gave me poise. For everything he took I have been recompensed without measure."

Sermon Jumps Out Of The Air

GOLDONNA, La. (BP) — Sometimes sermon illustrations seem to jump out of the air. Dean Hedrick, pastor of the Goldonna Baptist Church, had one arrive with a blast. Hedrick was preparing his sermon, "What Is Life?" Dec. 28, when a freight train collided with a trailer rig loaded with logs, causing derailment of 17 cars and exploding a 32,000-gallon tank of LP gas. The explosion sent flames 250 feet into the air, destroyed five houses and a store, partially damaged four houses and rocked Hedrick's study as it cut a swath through the tiny town.

Two train crew members were killed and a tank of deadly chlorine gas was overturned, threatening to send out a cloud of poisonous fumes. Hedrick said later he thought a cyclone had hit when the church building shook violently from the explosion.

When he learned of the potential danger from the overturned chlorine tank, Hedrick commandeered vehicles and

drivers, evacuating Goldonna's 200 residents in about 35 minutes. He then took a leading role in evacuating 500 people living within a few miles of Goldonna. Eventually, people within a 10-mile radius were rushed out of the area.

Fortunately, the chlorine tank did not spring a leak and its contents were safely removed by the railroad.

Hedrick continued to work with the evacuees. For two days and nights he did not sleep, working with the Red Cross from his study — now turned command post — in seeing that shelter, food and other necessities were provided. The church's gymnasium was used as a receiving center.

When the crisis was over sheriff's officers praised Hedrick for his leadership, saying "Goldonna was fortunate in having a man like Hedrick at a time like this."

And Hedrick had his sermon.

On The Moral Scene

PARENTS ANONYMOUS SELF-HELP GROUPS — Participation in a Parents Anonymous self-help group for abusing parents results in a sharp decrease in physical and verbal abuse toward children — sometimes almost immediately. This was one of the findings of a survey, conducted last year, that was based on questionnaires completed by 613 Parents Anonymous members throughout the country. Nearly 55 percent of the respondents said that they had physically abused their children with 43 percent citing verbal abuse as their chief problem. Both groups reported an immediate reduction in abusive incidents — in many cases to "almost never" — after only one month of membership in a Parents Anonymous group. The study also reported significant increases in members' feelings of self-esteem, social contacts, knowledge of child development, and ability to deal with stress — all considered to be important factors in helping parents to stop abusive behavior. ("Media Tip Sheet," HEW, September, 1977)

DON'T STOP YET! Southern Baptists are progressing in their ministry to multi-ethnic groups but the denomination still has a distance to go, according to Sidney Smith, a black Southern Baptist missionary in Los

Angeles, to the Bold Mission Leadership Conference in Glorieta, N.M. sponsored by WMU and the Brotherhood Commission. "California experience teaches that we can boldly announce that multi-ethnic churches can and do work, and that we wouldn't have it any other way," Smith called Southern Baptists "growing people, beautiful people, people of good will. We have come a long way, but the challenge before us is to boldly go on."

TELEVISION AND DEADLY WEAPONS — A new study, "Television's Action Arsenal: Weapon Use in Prime Time," by the United States Conference of Mayors "has found that deadly weapons — mainly guns and knives — continue to appear with great frequency in the principal action-adventure shows. In a study of 73 hours of prime-time action programs conducted from last March to August, deadly weapons appeared 648 times, or an average of about nine an hour. Of the total number, 468 of the weapons were handguns. But the extraordinary number of shots they fired — 84 percent — were misses." The study concluded that despite very limited blood-letting or suffering shown, the severity of the results of the weapon use is generally ignored. (The Tennesseean, January 1, 1978)

DECLINE IN SYPHILIS CASES FROM 1976 IS REPORTED — A decline in the number of syphilis cases around the country was reported today by the National Center for Disease Control. The venereal disease, which began a rise to epidemic proportions in 1969, started to decrease gradually 18 months ago. In the first nine months of this year, 15,279 cases were reported, a decline of nearly 15 percent from the 17,955 cases in the corresponding period of 1976. California reported the most cases in the first nine months of the year with 2,752. New York was second with 1,530; 1,319 of them in New York City. Third was Texas with 1,526 and Florida was fourth with 1,400. (New York Times, 12-3-77)

BUDGET FACT — Personnel costs now comprise about 58 percent of the current U. S. defense budget of \$113 billion. The most rapidly expanding segment of personnel expenses in the armed forces is not the salaries we pay active duty personnel but the growth of military pensions. In other branches of the federal government, workers contribute a percentage of their pay for their retirement pensions. In the armed forces, our men and women in uniform contribute nothing to their pensions. (Parade, September 25, 1977)

Rural Mississippi Association Sends Missions Team West

By Levon Moore

"There is no way for a small rural association like ours to implement all these suggestions for the use of volunteers." This was the essence of my reaction to the vast amounts of materials and program suggestions being given to us last summer at the missions conference in Glorieta. The leaders spoke of tremendous needs in the pioneer areas, and filmstrips dramatically illustrated these areas of need. We heard discussions on identifying pockets of need, enlisting volunteers, training volunteers, and involving volunteers in meeting these needs.

My mind kept going back across the twelve hundred miles from Glorieta to my association in central Mississippi. I thought of our thirty-one churches ministering in a county of less than twenty thousand people. It seemed obvious that we did not need to organize any more churches. There were no pockets of population that could not be easily reached by some existing church. As my mind raced back and forth across our county, I could not visualize the need for starting even one new mission church or Sunday School. There were no obvious needs for language mission ministries, and very few opportunities for getting involved in social mission ministries as an association. Most of these needs could be met more effectively by local churches.

Needs List

About four months later, my tele-

phone rang one morning, and Paul Harrell, Brotherhood director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, was saying, "The Home Mission Board has furnished my office with a list of needs across the country and our churches and associations are being challenged to accept some of these projects as a part of the Bold Mission Thrust. Would the Attala Baptist Association consider the possibility of getting involved in one of these projects?"

As we considered specific situations, he said, "Here is a request from California where a mission church is in pressing need of a church building. They are requesting a team of from eight to twelve men with basic building skills to come for a week to begin construction of their building. Could you help us?" I agreed to follow through and see what could be done.

After giving serious consideration to all the implications of this involvement for our association, I was led to the conclusion that it could be done. I shared my feelings with two or three laymen who might be prospects for such a program. I was encouraged by their enthusiastic response.

Next, I shared the possibility with our Association Council. This group also voiced positive optimism and encouraged me to move forward in efforts to organize support. They approved this as an associational project and expressed the desire to give each

church in the association an opportunity to participate with volunteers and financial support. By this time, I felt that we had achieved the first objective — the choosing of a project. I notified Paul Harrell that we had agreed on that particular project.

Enlistment

At that point, I wrote a letter to all pastors, chairmen of deacons, WMU and Brotherhood directors in the thirty-one churches and I made appeals for volunteers and for financial support. Within a relatively short time, I had the names of at least twelve men who were excellent prospects, and who expressed great excitement over the possibility of being involved.

The first visible support for the project came when I received a check from the WMU of one of our churches. The accompanying letter said, "We read of the project in your newspaper column, and we think it is an excellent idea. We want to have a part in it." Shortly thereafter, one of our churches voted to allocate \$500 for the project.

A telephone call to Dennis Lloyd, pastor of the church in Wheatland, California, revealed that the local people would provide rooms and meals for the men while they were there. This effort on behalf of the local member reduced significantly the amount of money required.

At the regular meeting of the Associational Executive Board, I presented the current status of the pro-

ject. The Board voted to underwrite the expenses of the project up to \$1000. One by one other churches began to respond, and soon the necessary funds were in sight.

Gearing Up

The next major step was to train the men for their individual involvement. In enlisting the men, an effort was made to secure men with a variety of building skills — carpenters, plumbers, electricians, etc. I requested the pastor of the California church to send a copy of the blueprints of the proposed building. The blueprints were studied by men with different skills in order to become acquainted with the type of construction involved, the necessary tools to carry, and to obtain other pertinent information.

It was agreed that revival services would be held from Wednesday night through the remainder of the week that the men were in California. The opportunity of worshipping with the people in Wheatland and of giving personal testimonies in the services added an exciting dimension to the project for the laymen who had volunteered to go.

On Saturday, February 18, this group of dedicated laymen will fly from Jackson, Miss. to Sacramento, Calif., to share in a Bold Mission Thrust. Their going will bless the men themselves, those to whom they minister in California, and those who provide the resources to send them.

Furthermore, their going will prove that associations in the older, traditional territory of Southern Baptists can also share in the exciting thrust of Bold Missions.

The men committed to go on the mission trip to California are: R. E. Alldread and James Edwards of Second Baptist; Dwight Clark of Williamsville; Blair Gog, Bill McKnight, and Norris Wilkerson of Parkway; John D. Jackson of McAdams; Jimmy Norris of McCool; James Rasberry and Andy Cockran of Sallis; Bill Simpson of First; and Emmett Skeen of Springdale.

(Moore is director of missions for the Attala Baptist Association, Kosciusko, MS.)



Texas Team Shares Info On Disaster Relief Unit

Bill Arnold, right, assistant director of church services for Dallas association, and a member of the Texas Baptist disaster relief team shows the mobile unit and explains the operations to a Mississippi Baptist Committee planning a disaster relief mobile unit for their state.

The committee members, left to right, are Omega Shamblin, member of FBC, Vicksburg, and a retired member of the Corps of Engineers. He is helping with the design of the mobile unit; Rusty Griffin, of the Mississippi Brotherhood staff, is coordinator of disaster relief efforts for state Baptists; and Jimmy Platt, a member of FBC, Columbus, who is in the moving and storage business and a pilot for the Mississippi disaster group. The three were examining the Texas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma disaster vehicles.

Griffin says he hopes to begin modification of the moving van which will be the disaster team's on site relief station. Several Baptist Men's groups in Baptist Associations around the state are already involved in modification and Griffin has specific information on needs available to those who are interested in helping.

Diamond Ring Takes On New Symbolism

By Judy Touchton

ATLANTA (BP) — She is a tiny slip of a woman — less than five feet tall and never weighing more than 102 pounds in her 91 years.

Lying in the stark white hospital bed, she hardly ruffles the covers. Her greyed hair, still showing tinges of strawberry blonde, gently frames her pale face against the pillow. Her body shakes, struggling against the overpowering cancer as she grasps for breath.

She struggles to open her eyes, her colorless lips move to speak, then close without a sound. She is dying. But she is ready.

In November, in what may have been Myla Koetter Guard's last gesture to support Christian missions, she mailed to the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board the diamond engagement ring she had worn more than 70 years.

It arrived in the morning mail packaged in a box that had held steel wool pads, stuffed with tissues and wrapped for mailing in a brown paper sack. A ragged-edged blue ring box held the tiny gold band with a solitaire diamond.

Its arrival had been prepared a day earlier by a note: "I would like it sold and the amount given to some young woman preparing to do mission work or to be used to the best advantage." The simplicity of her words, the selflessness of her gift, the significance of her gesture, touched many hearts at the board.

In his Home Missions magazine column, Executive Director William G. Tanner wrote, "Mrs. Guard thought her ring might be worth \$250. But who could give dollar value to the sentiment symbolized by such a treasure?"

"Mother never talked a lot about her Christianity . . . she lived it more,"

Mrs. James Harrell Dies Suddenly

Mrs. James L. Harrell, 53, of Grand Prairie, Tex., died suddenly Saturday, Feb. 4, in Rayville, La., while en route to Jackson.

The funeral was at 3 p.m. on Feb. 6 at Parkway Church, Jackson.

She was the wife of James L. Harrell, who had served as pastor and as director of missions in Mississippi and who had been employed by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in the Church Training Department and later in the Stewardship Department.

Survivors are her husband, associate secretary of the Church Stewardship Department, Baptist General Convention of Texas; three sons, David, Slidell, La., and Mark and Philip of Grand Prairie; a daughter, Mrs. Dale (Grace) King of Jackson; four brothers, and two sisters. Two brothers are Mississippians — Thomas Alton Waggoner of Jackson and Rev. Sam W. Waggoner of Madison County.

The former Elizabeth Waggoner, Mrs. Harrell was a native of Denver, Colo. She lived in Mississippi for over 40 years before moving to Grand Prairie in 1973.

relates her only child, Myla Bennett. "She didn't have to talk. She was always at the church — with the Woman's Missionary Union, leading Sunbeams, holding circle meetings."

Mrs. Bennett said her mother told her she didn't sell the ring and send the money because, "Back during the depression, in the 1920s and '30s, people didn't have any money. So they would put jewelry in church collection plates."

Mrs. Guard, who until a stroke after Christmas was alert and full of life, wore her engagement ring next to her gold wedding band until the day she mailed it, even though her husband died in the 1950s.

She has always been staunchly independent — living alone in Fayetteville, Ark., spending her winters in Phoenix, Ariz. Three years ago, she moved to Athens, Ga., to be closer to her daughter, but she lived in her own apartment, walking daily the eight blocks to town. Only last year she moved into her daughter's home.

Mrs. Guard knew even before the stroke, which left her partially crippled and unable to care for herself, that she would die soon.

She found out she had cancer at age 81 and has since had several operations. At 89, she had a breast removed. Now lung cancer is slowly ending her life.

She lies in the hospital bed . . . waiting.

Touched by her gift, Tanner said he would use her ring "to the best advantage" — as a symbol of sacrifice, a rally point, a challenge to personal support for the new Mission Service Corps, the convention's attempt to place 5,000 volunteers alongside 5,000 career missionaries.

"Mrs. Guard," Tanner added, "I want to show that ring to Southern Baptists across the nation urging them to match your sacrifice."

Mrs. Guard would be pleased with that decision, says her daughter, "but sending the ring was no sacrifice for her. It was something she planned and did . . . just as she has always planned her life and her death. She has made her funeral plans . . . selected the clothes, shoes, hat she will wear, picked out her casket and made arrangements with the funeral home here for her funeral in Fayetteville."

Yet with plans made for death, Mrs. Guard has not given up life.

On the outside of the envelope she received from the Home Mission Board thanking her for her gift and sending her a copy of Tanner's column, she noted the date.

"Rec'd Dec. 2, 1977," her note read . . . just as if she planned to live forever.

Popular opinion is generally based upon prejudice and ignorance.

Being poor is a problem, but being rich isn't the answer.

Don't expect your neighbor to be better than your neighbor's neighbor.



Aung Din, his wife Margaret, and daughter Debbie

Great-Grandfather Converted Under Adoniram Judson

Aung Din, his wife Margaret, and daughter Debbie have been in Mississippi as guests of Bob and Flora Hollifield, missionaries on furlough from Italy. They were visitors in the Baptist Building last week.

Margaret Aung Din's great-grandfather was converted in Burma under the preaching of Adoniram Judson in the early days of missions.

Aung Din recently retired from the Food and Agriculture organization of the United Nations. He is one of the top ten botanists in the world. The family now lives in Florida.

While Aung Din was stationed in Rome he and his wife and four children were active in the Rome Baptist Church; that was when they first knew the Hollifields.

Dr. Aung Din graduated from Judson College in Burma and did graduate study at Oxford University in England.

Government Moves To Dismiss O'Hair Suit

WASHINGTON (BP) — The lawsuit filed by atheist Madalyn Murray O'Hair against the national motto "In God We Trust" is now pending in the U. S. District Court for the Western District of Texas (in Austin).

Here is the chain of events according to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs: On September 1, 1977, O'Hair filed suit to have the court declare unconstitutional the law that requires the national motto "In God We Trust" to be imprinted on the coins and paper currency of the United States.

On November 11, 1977, the attorneys for the government filed a motion to dismiss the suit on the grounds that O'Hair does not have sufficient personal stake in the outcome to bring such a suit and that she did not state sufficient grounds for the suit.

O'Hair was then given until January 5, 1978, to respond to the motion to dismiss her suit. In the meantime, she hired new lawyers, who filed an amended complaint at the same time they answered the government's arguments for dismissal of the case.

The attorneys for the government have filed a reply to the amended complaint and have renewed their motion that the case be dismissed. The court at the time of this writing (January 27, 1978) has not announced its decision on the motion to dismiss the suit.

Hello, Hotline:

What's Doing In WMU?

BIRMINGHAM, AL — For the cost of one three-minute direct-dialed telephone call to Birmingham, Alabama, a caller can hear a taped message of current happenings in Woman's Missionary Union. Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of Woman's Missionary Union, Auxiliary to Southern Baptist Convention, will share latest WMU facts and figures during the

month of February. Messages will be changed every Monday.

The WMU Hotline, in its second year, is provided in connection with WMU Focus Week, February 12-18. Calling the Hotline is recommended for groups and individuals observing WMU Focus Week. The number to call is (205) 251-0830.

N. C. Baptists Seek End, Wake Forest Problem

RALEIGH, N. C. (BP) — The General Board of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina approved a recommendation designed to end the conflict between the convention and Wake Forest University over acceptance of federal funds.

Wake Forest University trustees precipitated the crisis Dec. 9, 1977, when they voted to accept funds despite a vote of the state convention to the contrary. In November, the convention had approved the university's acceptance of all but \$85,000 of a \$299,000 National Science Foundation research grant to the university's biology department. The convention ruled that the \$85,000 portion, granted for construction of a greenhouse on campus, violated convention policies that limit use of federal funds to "services rendered."

The recommendation basically delays "making a harsh, quick decision" and allows time for further study of the situation, according to Cecil A. Ray, the state convention's general secret-

ary, who has opposed the Wake Forest action.

The recommendation instructs the Wake Forest - Convention Relationship Committee to proceed with six previously scheduled hearings over the state for formulation of a report to the May 30-31 General Board meeting, when a final action is expected.

Already state convention leaders have received some 80 resolutions, predominantly opposing the Wake Forest action, from churches, pastors' conferences and associations throughout North Carolina.

The General Board's executive committee will meet March 9 on the Wake Forest campus for a dialogue with such groups as the Wake Forest trustees, biology department faculty, student body leaders, and members of the convention's Services Rendered Committee and Wake Forest - Convention Relationships Committee.

Ray noted that a spirit of unity and patience, underlined by "determination for clear answers" prevailed in

the General Board's meeting. Before the session closed, 450 persons prayed silently, many on their knees, as Forrest Fiezer of Shelby, N. C., 85-year-old retired executive secretary of Texas Baptists and former North Carolina pastor, prayed for God "to heal the fracture" between the university and the convention.

Other parts of the recommendation urged renewed efforts to seek a solution to the dilemma, study of reported "inconsistencies" in convention policy on use of federal funds by the hospital and Bowman-Gray School of Medicine at Wake Forest, consultation by the General Board's executive committee with the convention's nominating committee for preparation of materials on the role of Baptist trustees and their relationship to the convention and institutions, a study of how all North Carolina Baptist schools conform to state convention provisions, and development of an educational program on how Baptists own and operate institutions.

Golden Gate Growth Up 90 Per Cent In Decade

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP) — In the past 10 years, enrollment at Golden Gate Seminary has surged 90 per cent from 256 students in fall 1967 to 484 last fall. Since 1970 it has shown an 80 per cent increase. And, last fall (1977) Golden Gate led all other Southern Baptist seminaries in enrollment increase, climbing 18 per cent ahead of the fall 1976 figure.

New students make up 34 per cent of the present student body at Golden Gate. The new student rate increase in 1977 was 69 per cent more than the number of new students who enrolled in 1970.

A breakdown of enrollment shows that 58 per cent of the students are majoring in theology, 22 per cent in religious education, five per cent in church music, 10 per cent in the doctor of ministry program, and five per cent in continuing education.

In addition, all growth records at the seminary were broken last year. It was the first time in the history of the school that more than 500 students were served. A total of 517 non-duplicating credit students were enrolled.

In the past 10 years, the faculty of Golden Gate has nearly doubled, from 20 to 39. Six new faculty members have

been added in the past six months. Presently, the seminary's only doctoral program, (doctor of ministry), has 47 students enrolled, the largest number to ever seek the D. Min. degree on the Strawberry Point campus.

The Golden Gate placement office, directed by Stanton H. Nash, vice president for development, is having trouble supplying the demand for additional staff members to help in the growing churches of the West.

William M. Pinson Jr., president of the seminary, believes the increased interest in Golden Gate and the West is due largely to Southern Baptists' emphasis on Bold Mission Thrust to proclaim the message to all the world by the end of the century.

"Golden Gate is a unique part of Bold Missions," Pinson said. "Students are evidently more and more service and mission oriented. Golden Gate provides the opportunity to obtain a quality seminary education in the midst of a mission laboratory, a place to learn by doing. Sitting in the midst of millions of persons who have made no commitment to Christ in an area in need of thousands of new churches, students with a heart for evangelism and missions are attracted to Golden Gate."

Good Shepherd Award Goes To Owen Cooper

Owen Cooper received the "Good Shepherd" Cross and Staff Recognition at First, Yazoo City on Jan. 22.

Chairman of Deacons Gene A. Triggs and Pastor Jim Yates were in charge of the special ceremony honoring Cooper, Yazoo City layman and former SBC president.

The "Good Shepherd", a nationally recognized new recognition for adult Scouters and pastors who are Baptist, is made available through the Association of Baptists for Scouting in cooperation with The Boy Scouts of America through local Councils. Its purpose is to acknowledge distinguished service by Baptist laypersons and pastors.

and its Scouting program on all levels (local, district, council and national).

Cooper was the first "Good Shepherd" recipient in Mississippi and one of the first in the nation. He has just finished a three-year tenure as National Chairman of Nashville-based Association of Baptists for Scouting. His tenure in Scouting goes back 35 years and includes Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, District Chairman and Council president.

New National Chairman of the Association of Baptists for Scouting Albert S. Lineberry, Sr. of Greensboro, N. C. said: "Mr. Cooper honors the 'Good Shepherd' recognition as much as the recognition honors him. He also sets a very high national standard for this new recognition."

Stereo Baptist Hour Taped In Bible Lands

FORT WORTH (BP) — "The Baptist Hour," a syndicated religious radio show, is to begin broadcasting in stereo and originate from the Bible lands in February as part of an effort to assume real responsibilities in the Southern Baptist Convention's Bold Mission Thrust to present the gospel to everyone in the world by the year 2000.

"Baptist Hour" speaker Frank Polard, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss., spent two weeks in the Bible lands in December with Claude C. Cox, producer, and Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission engineers. The commission syndicates the show on 359 radio stations.

They taped 45 shows at sites which included the Sea of Galilee, Jericho, Jacob's Well, Caesarea, David's Tomb, Lazarus' Tomb, the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem, and the Jordan River. A pre-Easter sermon was recorded at the traditional site of the upper room where Jesus shared his last meal with his disciples. The Palm Sunday sermon was taped in the Garden of Gethsemane. Potter's Field and

the chapel built where Jesus is believed to have ascended into heaven are sites of the post-Easter sermons.

Other sermons were taped at Masada, where a last remnant of Jewish heroes chose suicide rather than Roman slavery; Megiddo, where some people believe the final battle between good and evil is to be fought; in Nazareth; and the Pater Noster Church in Jerusalem where Jesus gave his disciples the Lord's Prayer.

Mt. Moriah Church Goes Over Goal

Mt. Moriah Church, Lincoln County, exceeded its goal of \$1800 by giving \$1824 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. This is the largest amount the church has ever given to the special offering. Ronny Robinson is the pastor.

At Mississippi College

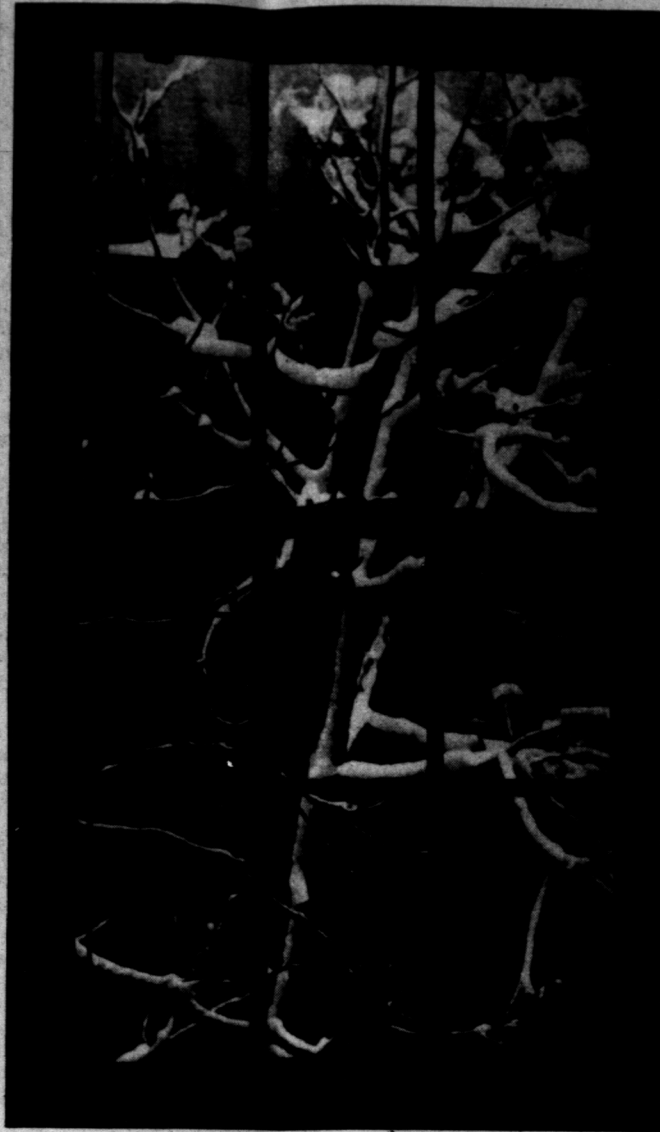
Photographs Of Religious Architecture On Display

Religious Architecture in Mississippi, a photographic survey of religious structures in the state, opened on Feb. 1, at the Art Gallery in Aven Hall on the campus of Mississippi College. Over 80 buildings across Mississippi are pictured in this special exhibit which will be on display

through Wed., Feb. 21. The exhibition is being circulated by the State Historical Museum, a division of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

The religious architecture of Mississippi, in all its varied forms, has preserved a part of the spiritual, social, and artistic history of the state. Through the 19th and 20th centuries national architectural trends have been adapted and altered by local tastes and interpretations by Mississippi architects and builders in the materials available to them. This has produced a rich and varied heritage of religious buildings that continue to be preserved and appreciated.

"Religious Architecture in Mississippi" may be seen from 8:00 to 4:00 Monday through Friday. The public is invited to see the exhibit. There is no admission charge. For more information about the exhibit contact N. W. Carpenter at 924-5131, Ext. 207.



(RNS Photo)

In Silent White Beauty

The snow was beautiful — so clean and white —
It hung lacy veils up and down the street
And turned the bare and ugly things to loveliness
As it quietly tiptoed on fairy feet.

A large oak above a neighbor's house
Held snow piled high on massive bare limbs
Like a painting that would take first place;
And red berries peeped from under snow brims.

The crepe myrtle, dressed in gleaming white,
Became a castle where the birds were fed.
Beside the familiar some new ones came,
But those I liked best were donned in red.

—Victoria Singley

SCRAPBOOK

A Source Of Strength

My faith faltered, and I exposed my soul's despair.
I grasped for human arm, appealing for support,
And there was no help, no solace anywhere.

I walked in the wind toward home, not minding winter at all,
Beside Lake Pontchartrain, where reckless waves
Bounced up, gray like the turbid clouds and concrete wall.

Then I wept in silence, and my spirit knelt in prayer.
I searched the Heart of God, alone in loneliness,
And gently, firmly Some One was there.

—Violet Tackett

Anticipation

I heard the winds of December whistle
and blow,
And I thought of roses sleeping under
the snow.
And there, as I stood in the cold, I
dreamed of Spring
When the warm winds would come and
to life bring
The blade, the leaf, and the bloom and
birds would sing.

I bowed my head to remember the ways
of God,
And I thought of my friends sleeping
under the sod.
And there, as I stood in sorrow, came the
vision
When the Savior would come, with
Death driven
Away, no more to hold men.
Angels would sing
Of roses in God's garden of morn,
Of friends by God's power reborn.

—Victor Vaughn

On Winter's Calendar

The winter sun pales,
conceals its warm rays,
grey clouds layer the sky,
dimming daylight
while Arctic winds blow,
whirling sleet and snow,
covering the land
in whitest white,
bringing traffic
to a snail's crawl,
creating problems
for everyone.

As I look outside
through frosted window panes
my thoughts
are suspended
in the chilly bleakness
yet I know
"To everything
there is a season
and a time
to every purpose
under the heaven,"
and I find myself
waiting for Spring.

—Eunice Barnes

Love Song To God

Dear One, I love you,
Take me I pray,
Hold me and love me
Right here today.

I am your daughter,
Precious to you,
I love you dearly;
You love me, too.

Each day I love you
Yet more and more,
I'll love you always,
Love and adore!"

—Sarah Field Batson

Winter Visit

With a winter sky ablaze
and the clouds a color maze
reflecting a brilliance that could daze
except for evening's shade and haze
under trees, yet in Heaven's gaze
along a path and a wooded faze
to the neighbors for drinks that fizzle
through a cold and gentle drizzle
to an open fire and apples to frizzle

—B. A. Roberts

Spanish Baptists Give Green Light To Bold Mission Thrust

By Indy Whitten, Missionary

Pastors and representatives of the churches of the Spanish Baptist Union met Saturday, Jan. 7 at the Good Shepherd Baptist Church, Madrid, to make plans for a five-year mission program in Spain.

The purpose of the program is to put together a team of evangelists and provide them with equipment to work the year around in strengthening existing work and beginning churches in new areas. One of the evangelists is to be a Spanish national and one a Southern Baptist missionary. They are to be provided a large tent, amplifying equipment, portable platform, movie projector and films, a van and possibly house trailers.

This program was first presented by Maximo Garcia, pastor of the Villaverde Baptist Church of Madrid and promoter of missions, as well as vice president of the Spanish Baptist Union. It was enthusiastically accepted by the Executive Committee of the Union.

The three-hour meeting was presided over by Juan Torres, president of the Spanish Baptist Union, and Garcia. A presentation was made on two large screens. Adolfo de Silva, pastor of the Alcoy Baptist Church, manned the slide projector; Joe Mefford, Southern Baptist missionary, ran the overhead projector and P. D. Lee, missionary technician in electronics, was at the sound controls.

As the great needs of the country were unfolded on the left screen by means of slides, different drawings in caricature of a typical village church member of the past, Horacio, were presented on the right screen. Horacio's opinions and questions

served to clarify to all present the purposes and proposals for carrying out the five-year missionary plan. All identified with Horacio's conclusion, "It's about time we had something like this!"

Spanish Baptists were challenged to take a giant step of faith and responsible stewardship and set a goal for the 1978 home mission offering of three million pesetas (\$37,500). This is more than three times the highest offering ever received for home missions. The goal was set that each Baptist in Spain aim at giving 1,000 pesetas (\$12.50), which, of course, is to be over-and-above their normal Cooperative Program giving.

On the basis of this step of faith, the Spanish Baptist Union is appealing to Southern Baptists, through the Foreign Mission Board, to cooperate in their "plan" with double the amount received in the 1978 Spanish home mission offering.

An appealing caricature was flashed on a screen of a tall Texan, with boots and a ten-gallon hat, holding a bag marked 6,000,000 pesetas. Beside him was Horacio, equally proud, holding up a bag of money marked 3,000,000 Ptas.

There was a feeling of triumph as the representatives of the churches launched their "bold mission thrust" and gave an enthusiastic green light to go forward with the plan.

Sears Check For MC

Van D. Quick, left, vice-president for student affairs at Mississippi College, accepts a check from Bill Clarke, personnel manager at Sears in Jackson. The Sears-Roebuck Foundation awarded the grant to be used as the college deems necessary.

Springdale Doubles Lottie Moon Goal

Springdale Church, Attala County, has more than doubled its Lottie Moon Offering goal by giving over \$1,000. The original goal was \$411, an 18 per cent increase over the \$337 which was given in 1976.

In early December, the pastor preached a missionary message which included a challenge to give 20 per cent to foreign missions of the amount each family spent for Christmas gifts. During the invitation, several people publicly accepted the challenge and many who had already given, were motivated to give again resulting in the largest Lottie Moon Offering in the history of the church. Floyd F. Higginbotham is pastor at Springdale.

Nursing Grad Initiates 'Thanksgiving Service'

GUADALAJARA, Mexico (BP) — Virginia Cisneros is a Mexican Baptist who had a better idea than to participate in the Catholic mass which follows graduation in the state school of nursing.

Instead, she had her Emmanuel Baptist Church here sponsor what she called a "Thanksgiving Service" in gratitude to God for allowing her to graduate.

Seventeen of the 35 in her graduating class came to the service. Each received a New Testament from Cisneros after she spoke briefly of how God had blessed her. The service closed with an invitation to the graduates to join the young Baptist in kneeling at the front of the church.



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NAMES IN THE NEWS



Como Church (Panola) licensed Robert B. (Sonny) Smith to the gospel ministry Jan. 15. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Smith, and is married to former Martha Jean Duke. He is attending Mid-South Bible College, Memphis. In the picture, Allen Tompkins, chairman of deacons, is shown presenting a certificate of license as the church pastor, Duall Corbitt, observes. Bryan Smith is in the background, upper right. Smith is available for supply work (phone 526-5760).

Robert Jones was ordained as deacon Jan. 22 at Tylertown Church, Mel Craft, Pastor.



George Lamon Stockstill of Raleigh, N. C. and his wife have returned from a trip to the Holy Land. They are natives of Pearl River County, Mississippi. Now 80, he was raised on a farm near Carriere, and was one of a family of 12. Her father was G. W. Jarrell of Picayune. They have always been active in Baptist work.

Baxterville Church (Lamar) ordained three new deacons on Sunday afternoon, Jan. 22. James Yates, pastor, Bellevue Church, delivered the ordination message. Wiley Johnson, retired preacher, presented the charge to the deacons. Jane Goolsby presented the charge to the wives of the new deacons. Those ordained were George Bilbo, James O. Saul and Warren Spangler. Bob Goolsby is the pastor.

Longview Church, Belden, has licensed Wayne Tudor to the gospel ministry. He, his wife Pam, and four-year-old Shannon live near Pontotoc. He is available for supply preaching or pastorate. Mike Burczynski, pastor, said, "He is anxious for opportunity to preach God's word."

H. Gordon Shambarger, director of the Department of Pastoral Care, Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, Jackson, has been selected to participate in the American Protestant Hospital Association's National Seminar to educate clergy for Service To The Aging. The seminar will be held February 5-7 at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis, Indiana. Chaplain Shambarger, as a Mississippi member of the College of Chaplains, will represent the state at the seminar.

Ron and Patricia Owens will present A Sermon in Song at the Woodland Hills Church, Jackson, during the morning worship service on Feb. 12. Ron and Patricia are well known throughout the Jackson area. Patricia is a native of Jackson and Ron lived and studied in Europe. Though they have sung classical, Broadway, and pop repertoire, they are now known for their "Sermons in Song" in which they share their pilgrimage through word and music. Concert tours have taken them coast to coast in the United States and Canada, to Europe, Asia, and Africa.

Ronald E. (Ronnie) Ross, minister of music and youth for Calvary Church, Columbia, for four years, has been listed in "Who's Who in Religion."

He is a graduate of William Carey College, and came to the Columbia Church from First Church, Seminary. He has directed and led the youth choir on three extended trips, going into several states with the musical program. He is also driver of the church bus and leader with the pastor in trips made from time to time for the senior citizens, and in three weeks will accompany the group on a five-day trip to Disney World. Ross is married to the former Judy Scott of Moss Point.

Spiritual Enrichment Week Comes To MC

"Reach Out and Touch" will be the theme for the Spiritual Enrichment Week at Mississippi College Feb. 13-16 as a pastor, mother, and student worker lead out in the discussion sessions.

The special week, which will include morning chapel sessions, evening meetings, and dormitory discussions, will cover topics ranging from "Don't Just Sit There — Do Something!" to "Beyond Romance." The latter will be a seminar for married students.

Resource individuals for the week will be Dr. Daniel G. Bagby, pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church in Lafayette, Ind., Mrs. Margaret Hensley of Jackson, a mother and frequent contributor to denominational magazines on home and family and conference leader at convention-wide and state-wide assemblies, and William Jan Daehnert, associate in the Division of Student Work, Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Staff Changes

James L. Heflin is the new pastor at First Church, Greenville. He began his service there on Jan. 29.

Tim Leggett, a recent graduate of New Orleans Seminary, has been called by McLaurin, First Church as minister of youth and music. Pastor of the church is Jerry G. Wise.

Carole Williams has accepted the position as religious education director at Tylertown Church, Mel Craft, pastor.

Danny Lafferty and his family arrived in Meridian on Jan. 4, when he began his ministry as pastor of the Mt. Horeb Church.

Success Church, Gulf Coast, has called Mike Moore as pastor.

Woolmarket Church has called Russell Naron as pastor.

Gulfport Heights Church, Gulfport, has called Pat McNair as pastor. He was formerly pastor of the church, but had been away for two years.

Buddy Beam, pastor of Commission Road Church, Gulfport, for two years, has resigned.

Hugh Reed is serving as assistant to the pastor at East Side Church, Gulf Coast Association. The pastor is Harry Cottrell. Reed was licensed to the ministry at East Side on Dec. 18, 1977.

New Hope Church, Gulf Coast has called Marilyn Porter Smith as music and youth director. She is from Long Beach and attended Perkinson Junior College and University of Southern Mississippi. While at the university she worked with the pre-school choir at 38th Avenue Church. She goes to New Hope from Beacon Church, Hattiesburg, where she was music director. Her husband, who is employed by Naval Oceanographic, is presently in Athens, Greece.

All preachers should be sure of what they say. Some one in the audience might be listening.

Escatawpa Honors Pastor On 23rd Year

Escatawpa Church honored their pastor, Ralph H. Young, on his 23rd anniversary, and the minister of music, Don Cawthon, who has served for 14 years on Jan. 15.

A dinner on the ground fellowship was planned for them and each was given a gift of money.

only 25,000 Communists, out of a total population of 1,400,000 persons.

"There is one agreement however — Communists and Baptists are both fighting against the alcohol problem!" Mrs. Varnas says.

She asks for agreement on another point: "Please carry away the impression that we in the U.S.S.R. want peace and friendship with every nation, and as we fight for peace with you, the churches have a certain part in it."

This much seems certain — when visitors from over the world arrive in beautiful, historic Tallinn for the Olympic water events, Estonian Christians will welcome them in peace to their churches. (EBPS)

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Estonian Baptists Prepare For 1980 Moscow Olympics

TALLINN — As the 1980 Olympic Games are played with Moscow as host, this Baltic port and capital of the Estonian Republic will be the scene of the regatta events.

Preparations are already under way. Shops are stocked with souvenir scarves and pennants bearing the Olympic ring motif, and there are numerous restoration projects and much new construction activity.

Once their sails are set for the races, the water sportsmen taking part in the international Games will likely set their course by an ancient landmark known to Baltic seamen for centuries — the Oleviste Church spire.

Stretching 124 meters high, it is the symbol of Tallinn, and makes St. Olaf's the tallest church building in the Soviet Union, and the tallest Baptist church building in Europe.

Tallinn Baptists "inherited" this building from a number of church groups through history. It is said to have been erected by and named for a Swedish king, as early as 1267. However, the congregation holds a document stating it was "given" to a monastery that year, so they claim it was towering proudly over the port much earlier.

Later, German Lutheran congregations met there. The cathedral-like

structure was granted to the Baptists 28 years ago.

Now it is home to a 1,400-member church, one of eighty Baptists congregations scattered through the Estonian Republic.

Any of the members will say it is a "missionary" church. In addition to three pastors, it counts 30 preachers. The building seats 1,100, but can hold up to 5,000 standing worshippers.

And, because of its history, so many tourists visit that a simultaneous translation system complete with headphones was installed to help guests — mostly from other Soviet republics — hear the services in Russian.

There is also a Russian-language Baptist church as well as three other Estonian congregations in the capital.

The Estonian superintendent, the Rev. Robert Voesu, is a former professor of church history who for a number of years has shepherded the republic's Baptists. He is a Vice President of the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians - Baptists in the U.S.S.R.

The Estonian Baptist community totals at least 15,000, with about 7,500 baptized members.

A number of these live on one of the offshore islands where a tenth of the population are Baptists.

One of the other churches has about 75 members — and 12 preachers. Although located in a rural area, it is a cosmopolitan congregation with 10 Finnish-speaking members, 9 German-speaking, and Lutherans and Catholics often attending.

Because so many languages are spoken, 10,000 copies of a German hymn-book are being imported.

In 1975, after a quarter-century of waiting, an Estonian-language hymnal was published jointly with the republic's Methodists, who are observing their own 70th year of work in ceremonies this month. Estonian Methodists number about 2,300 members in 15 congregations. The largest, with 1,100 members is in the capital.

Although some buildings are now disaffected, several other churches are active in Tallinn. Among them, a Reformed Church building is undergoing extensive renovation, and an Orthodox Cathedral stands prominently in the city.

Inter-church co-operation is obvious in the Republic — so much so that Mrs. Meta Varnas, Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic, claims "There are more believers than Communists here." She cites figures showing 110,000 known Christians, but



Just For The Record



MEMBERS OF GREENWOOD SPRINGS CHURCH near Amory entered their new annex with the beginning of the new year. The addition with 1000 square feet of space, provides Sunday School rooms and fellowship hall. Ernest Richardson is pastor.

Pine Level Church, Greene County, has received gifts of a new carpet, cushions, and curtains. These were donated by Evie Turner Elmore in memory of her late husband, Ira Turner of Leakesville.

Pine Level is in the process of building a new pastorage. All work is being done by the men of the church. Kenneth Overby is pastor.

Revival Dates

First Church, Biloxi: Feb. 12-17; Barry Landrum, First, Bossier City, La., Evangelist; Larry Black, First, Jackson, singer.

Bolts can't injure a political party, but nuts can.

Pride often builds the nest in which poverty hatches out its sorrows.

Judge not your friend until you stand in his place.

Baptist Seminaries, Colleges, and Schools

CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS JOINED IN MISSION

- 71 schools including 53 universities and colleges, 12 Bible schools and academies, and six seminaries
- 152,000 students
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Our Southern Baptist colleges, seminaries, and schools are places where young men and women are educated and equipped for various types of vocations including Christian ministry. Baptist campuses are WHERE CHRISTIAN VALUES MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND BOLD MISSION BECOMES A REALITY.

AND BOLD MISSION BECOMES A REALITY

For more information write to Education Commission, SBC

460 James Robertson Parkway/Nashville, Tennessee 37219



FEBRUARY 19, 1978

History Of WMU, SBC, To Be Televised In Hattiesburg

First Church, Hattiesburg, Woman's Missionary Union, along with others in Lebanon Association, will observe WMU Focus Week in a unique way this year. The history of Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, will be presented on Cable 6, First Church's television ministry channel. Five 30-minute segments will be shown on consecutive nights, Feb. 13-17, 8:30-9:00 p.m.

In addition, these video-taped training sessions will be shown in their entirety on Feb. 14, 9:00-11:30 a.m., and Feb. 16, 9:00-11:30 a.m.

The teacher for History of Woman's

Missionary Union is Ethel McKeithen, director of Baptist Women for Mississippi WMU. Miss McKeithen formerly was minister of education at Temple Church, Hattiesburg.

"This will inaugurate a number of 'firsts' for our cable television ministry at First Church," said Farrell Blankenship, general manager of Cable 6 Television. "It will be the first time we have attempted to present any programming in the morning hours and we are planning to do more of this."

"It will be the first time we have offered this type of training for Church Study Course credit, and it

will be the first time this type of training has been offered to all the churches of Lebanon Association, and any others who would like to watch," he said.

The book on which credit may be given in the Church Study Course is *History of Woman's Missionary Union* (Revised Edition) by Alma Hunt and Catherine Allen.

Coordinating the taping and production of the video tapes were Mrs. A. J. Jones, Woman's Missionary Union director at First Church, Hattiesburg, and Mike Gustine, technical director and chief engineer of First Church's television ministry.



MSU Fishermen Sing

Sponsored by the Baptist Student Union at Mississippi State University, THE FISHERMEN present a Christian witness through the medium of contemporary religious music. This group's sole purpose is to glorify God and share the Gospel through music, scripture, and testimony. Front row (left to right) David Crenshaw, Columbus, MS; Vicki Mooneyham, Yazoo City, MS; Joy Jennings, Brandon, MS; Linda Powell, Jackson, MS; Carmen Jelcoat, Bay Springs, MS; Bradley White, Yazoo City, MS; Back row (left to right) Bill Branch, New Orleans, LA; Greg Anthony, Jackson, MS; Norman Rester, Picayune, MS; David McCormick, Vicksburg, MS; Mark Gregory, Carthage, MS.

The group is composed of six singers, a lead guitarist, a rhythm guitarist, a bass guitarist, a drummer, a pianist, and a sound technician.

THE FISHERMEN share Christ in a number of different ways, including worship services, concerts, retreats, school assemblies, youth rallies, banquets, in short, anywhere that God leads.

For further information contact: THE FISHERMEN, Baptist Student Union, Drawer BU, Mississippi State, MS 39762.

Daughter Of Missions Director Dies In Wreck

Sue Lynn Johnson, 23, Gadsden, Ala., was killed in a single car accident January 27.

Miss Johnson lived in Gadsden where she was manager of Brooks Fashion Shop. Her parents, Rev. and Mrs. M. C. Johnson, serve as director of missions for Holmes-Lefflore Association and foster missionary for Humphreys County. Johnson was pastor in Gadsden before coming to Greenwood.

The services in Gadsden were conducted by Rayford Duck of Greenwood and Odis Green of Attalla, Ala. Interment was at Grant, La.

Miss Johnson is survived by her parents; one sister, Sharon Ruth of Dallas, Tex.; and Anthony, a brother who is still at home. Her grandparents are Mrs. Gertrude Root, Lake Charles, La.; Mrs. Sonora Holt, Garland, Tex.; and Charles Holt, Fort Worth.

Mount Olive More Than Triples Goal

Mount Olive Church, Carroll County, made a Lottie Moon Offering of \$1202.00 this year. The goal was first set at \$350.00, an increase of \$50.00 over the previous year. This goal was changed to \$1000.00, which was surpassed.



A Woman's World Reader For
Beyond the Ironing Board
—Wanda Fausch—

Every time I put a piece of paper in my typewriter I see on the roller a white typed "Hi" put there by one of the boys by putting the white side of some eraser correction paper down. And no matter what humor I am in with that boy when I sit down at the typewriter—even if I could pinch his head off if I could get my hands on him—that "Hi" puts a slight kink in my heart muscles and an involuntary small grin on my face.

In my purse I carry a lovely Cross pen with my name engraved on it which one of the boys gave me just as a love gift when he was in the early turbulent adolescent years and we wondered if we would get through them. Seeing that pen does the same thing the "Hi" on the typewriter does.

In my jewelry there is a beautiful jade pendant that one of the boys brought me from a mission trip to Alaska, though it really was a little too expensive for his budget. It's more valuable than a flawless emerald so far as I'm concerned, and it triggers the same good feeling toward him when I look at it or wear it.

I couldn't begin to mention the items, both inexpensive and nice, that my husband has given me. But it is not the gifts that have been given me, nor the cost or lack of cost, such as the "Hi" on the typewriter, that is really valuable, or invaluable. It's what those gifts remind me of, the way they make me feel, because I can remember what was the thought behind those gifts and actions.

It makes me think of two things—that gifts are for enjoying over and over again and that everybody needs to make a practice of continual enjoyment.

Better than that, it is a reminder that it really isn't always the gift, but it really is the thought behind the gift that counts, and keeps on counting.

Ridgecrest, N.C.—Marian Eugenia ("Gennie") Cowherd, 22, daughter of Charles P. Cowherd and Marian Peeler Cowherd, deceased Southern Baptist missionaries to Hong Kong, was killed in an automobile accident Jan. 21 in Gainesville, Ga. The funeral was to be held Jan. 28 at Ridgecrest Baptist Church here. Miss Cowherd is survived by her stepmother, Mrs. Margaret Cowherd Baker of York-shire, England; a brother, William Gary Cowherd; and two sisters, Mary Catherine Mullins and Virginia Louise Love.

Devotional

Love

By Evie Landrum Goodrich, Clinton

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16 is undoubtedly the most wonderful sentence that was ever written and is found in one book, God's Word, the Bible. Many volumes have been written on the exposition of that one verse, but it is not exhausted yet, and never will be.

A missionary in a foreign field was telling the story of Jesus to a group of young women. After she had told about His birth, childhood days and His ministry, she then told how He suffered, bled and died on the cross for all of us.

One lady, who had been listening attentively spoke out and said, "Missionary, White Face, do you mean that He loved me enough to die for me?" "Yes, He did," said the missionary.

The lady exclaimed aloud and said, with tears streaming down her face, "Oh, how I love Him, how I do love Him."

Time is running out for some of us and we should not be guilty of not telling someone about God's great love.

Many times an opportunity presents itself when we least expect it. While attending a Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis, I was browsing through the book store when a Mississippi pastor came to me and said, "Come and go with me to tell the plan of salvation to a woman of the street." I immediately went with him to one of the booths and the woman followed.

The preacher and I listened to the woman, who said, "I have been passing this Convention Hall and have heard the beautiful singing and preaching. Will you please tell me how to be saved so that I can have the joy that you people seem to have."

The preacher explained the way she could be saved. He did it earnestly and simply. As a result she said, "I believe." After kneeling in prayer, the pastor said, "Goodbye, friend, I may never see you again on this earth, but I hope to meet you in Heaven."

Let's put love in action and remember that in Luke 15:7 he said that there will be joy in heaven over one sinner that repenteth.

(Note: The writer is widow of A. L. Goodrich, a former editor of the Baptist Record.)

Scripture Circulation Rises Dramatically

NEW YORK, Jan. 31 — The Asia-Pacific region, where over half of the world's people live, experienced a remarkable increase in Scripture distribution in 1977.

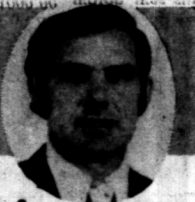
An impressive 42 per cent rise in the circulation of all Scriptures, including complete Bibles, New Testaments, Portions and Selections, was reported by the United Bible Societies (UBS), an international fellowship of 59 national societies, of which the American Bible Society is a member.

The largest single growth came in the fourfold rise in distribution of Scripture Portions and Selections through "Good News for New Readers," a program which makes it possible for the newly literate millions to read God's Word. Much of Asia is plagued by literacy problems, compounded by nonstop population

growth; thus many people are just learning to read and write in their own language. The world's Bible Societies have sought to meet this need with simplified graded selections of "easy reading" for beginners, which are full-fledged translations of the Scriptures.

More than 170 million Scriptures were distributed throughout Asia and the Pacific during 1977, compared to 120 million the previous year. India topped the list with a demand for over 54 million Scriptures, while Indonesia and Korea were runners-up, each with over 27 million copies of Scripture. In terms of reaching people with God's Word, the Korean Bible Society deserves top honors since the total Scripture distribution figure there equals 77 per cent of the country's population.

Life and Work Lesson



Resources For Facing Opposition

By Bill Duncan, Long Beach, First John 15:18-16:33

One cold, wintry day Henry Ward Beecher was walking down an almost deserted street when he found a little child crying bitterly. He picked the child up in his strong arms and folded him on his broad breast until he ceased his sobbing, and then asked, "What's the matter, little one?" "Nuffin" is the matter since you come!" replied the child.

This is also true in Christianity. Jesus stunned the disciples by telling them he was going away. But he promised them, "I will not leave you comfortless." They were so weak. They were poor people. They were uneducated. They did not have much confidence. But when Jesus was present "Nuffin" is the matter." He reminded them for the third time that the Holy Spirit would come. When the Spirit did come, the disciples were able to witness, stand up to persecution, and be happy in difficult circumstances.

A Good Relationship
Jesus reminded the disciples that they were to abide in Christ which was a vital relationship. They were chosen from the world in order that they would turn away from the life based on human interest, desires and purposes. Yet they had to go on living in the world which is opposed or indifferent to the Gospel of Christ. It is natural living in the will of man as against spiritual living in the will of God.

Jesus went on to point out the treatment that the believer may expect since he is openly identified with Christ. He should expect no better treatment than He had received and would receive, and He was speaking of Calvary in the immediate future. He went on to say that He was suffering rejection, and He warned his disciples that rejection would be their lot for the very reason they were His disciples.

This is something we need to keep in mind. If believers intend to be faithful to the Lord, hostile rejection and violent opposition are to be expected. Despite the certainty of rejection, Christ died for all men that are lost. All believers can expect the people of the world to turn a deaf ear and reject them.

But we are indebted to William Hull's explanation. He said there was hope for the persecuted. If some were responsive to the Lord's words, some

will be responsive to the believers, also. If Jesus was able to recruit a remnant, they would too. Therefore, the better the relationship between the believer and the Lord, the more hope the persecuted can have.

A Needed Witness
In the third promise of the Comforter whom the Father would send, He is called the Spirit of Truth. It would be His ministry to make clear many things they were unable to understand when Jesus taught them.

God intended that the whole world should know the Gospel. The disciples were to begin the ministry by sharing with the world the testimony of what Calvary and the resurrection meant. The Holy Spirit would show them more of the true meaning of all that God was doing in Christ.

The disciples would be unable to witness without the aid of the Holy Spirit. Persecution would arise against the witnesses. But the Spirit would give them the holy boldness to glorify Jesus Christ. The witness would continue and enlarge the work which Jesus had started. The Holy Spirit witnessed to Jesus Christ through the life, ministry and testimony of disciples who are Spirit-filled and obey the commission of the Lord.

A Great Hope
There would be sorrow, but joy would come afterward. "A little while, and ye shall not see me"—that is sorrow. "And again, a little while, and ye shall see me, because I go to the Father"—that is joy. The disciples were puzzled. They simply did not grasp His meaning. Jesus did not predict in detail how things would happen, but He gave them strong assurance that their sorrow would be turned into joy.

Jesus illustrated this difficult concept by the joy of a mother in childbirth. She had sorrow and pain in her labor, but when the baby is in her arms, she forgets the pain and suffering and rejoices in the tiny newborn.

The Christian, too, shall rejoice when he sees what lies ahead in blessing and glory. Thus we can forget the difficulties which beset the human experience.

One of the assurances that Jesus left with His disciples was that prayer would be answered. They were to remember their Lord and Saviour had

given Himself for them and using His name they were to press their claim for answered prayer. It is this teaching which gives believers the blessed assurance that as they live in fellowship with Jesus Christ through faith in Him they may look for answered prayer, according to His Will.

The final and full victory belongs to the Christian. The journey may be complicated by many trials, much sorrow and suffering. It is possible to have peace and joy in this sinful, contrary world today. Because we are not alone.

By Hardy R. Denham, Jr.
First, Newton

Psalm 146
A man recently converted from a notorious lifestyle went to his former comrades in sin. He desired to share with them his new found faith in Christ. Filled with enthusiasm he told them what the Lord had done for him. Nearly every sentence was punctuated with the word "Hallelujah," a word he had heard Christians use. One of the man's friends asked him what Hallelujah meant. The new convert answered, "I really don't know for sure, but I think it means it's real and I've got it."

The last five psalms (146-150) begin and end with the word Hallelujah. It is translated, Praise the Lord. The theme of these five psalms is praise, however there is a different reason for praise given in each of the psalms. Psalms 146 emphasizes praise to the Lord because of His adequacy and ability. It is possible that the psalmist had found man untrustworthy, or incapable of helping him. But the Lord was trustworthy and able.

I. The Praise Of God Verses 1-2

The psalmist commanded praise of the Lord (verse 1). This was an exhortation addressed to himself. The set-

Thank You, Lord . . .

A Church In A House

Yesterday we had another great experience. A pastor and I brought ten Korean seamen here to my house for a Korean worship service. I gave my testimony, the pastor preached, and his wife served Sunday lunch. It really seemed like what you read about in the New Testament—a church in a house! It afforded a warm-hearted experience for them. Eight of them took New Testaments and promised to attend church in the future. We expect to see some of them again soon and follow up.

—Paul W. Benedict, Jr.
Yokohama, Japan

... THROUGH THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

Uniform Lesson

The Joy Of Faith In The Lord



ting of this summons was undoubtedly some experience in the psalmist's life in which he found the Lord able to meet his needs whereas others could not. The natural reaction was to praise God.

The psalmist vowed to continue to praise the Lord as long as he lived (verse 2). Praise toward God is not to be a spasmodic activity but one engaged in daily throughout life. In fact, praising God is the one thing men are to do on earth which they will continue to do in heaven. John saw the saints in glory before the throne and he wrote, "Day and night they never cease to sing, 'Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come'" (Revelation 4:8). When men praise God on earth they are preparing for the work in heaven.

II. The Performance Of God Verses 3-9

Before extolling the Lord for His ability the psalmist cautioned against trusting men (verses 3-4). No indication of the reason for this negative statement is given. It could be that the psalmist had put his trust in a friend and found him incapable of helping. Or, it could be that the leaders had been guilty of some blunder which had left the writer shaken.

Two reasons were given for not trusting men. The first is that they are

merely men ("son of man") and cannot help. The second is that they are destined to die and when death comes men cannot carry out plans they have made.

In contrast to the disappointment in trusting men, there is happiness in trusting the Lord (verses 5-7). Happiness is not to be a goal in life. It is the by-product of a life that trusts God. The emphasis in this section is on what the Lord had done in the past. He is "the God of Jacob," and proved His ability to both change Jacob's life for the good and meet life needs (verse 5). As the Creator of the universe, God's record of faithfulness can be traced back to the very beginning (verses 6-7). The psalmist was saying what the lyrics of the familiar hymn declare:

"O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come."

The fact that the Lord has been adequate for man in the past is proof of the fact that He will always meet man's needs.

The stanza containing verses 8-9 present what the Lord does for people. The emphasis is on the Lord as shown by the fact that phrase after phrase begins with the words, "The Lord." The psalmist declared that the Lord liberates, lifts, loves and leads people. These statements are designed to show God's ability to meet all different kinds of needs. These affirmations are

summed up in Paul's great declaration, "and my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).

III. The Permanence Of God (v. 10)

The psalmist closed with the theme stated at the outset. This reminds us that the psalm is one of praise to God. The Lord is to be praised because of what He has done and what He will do.

The closing verse also emphasizes the permanence of the Lord. He will reign forever, and over all generations. Moses sang a song of praise following the departure of the Hebrews from Egypt. The closing verse of that song declares, "The Lord will reign for ever" (Exodus 15:18). The Lord had proven His superiority over the gods of Egypt. Thus Moses knew that the Lord was invincible. This is the same note on which this psalm of praise ends.

We have experienced the loss of people upon whom we leaned for support and counsel. Sometimes this loss was not in the form of death but the factor of aging and illness which robbed of strength and clarity of mind. It is difficult to accept the fact that one upon whom we have counted is no longer able to produce. This will never be true of the Lord. His reign is forever and His strength unending.

Off The Record

"Why did you throw the pot of geraniums at the plaintiff?"
"Because of an advertisement, your honor."

"What advertisement?"
"Say it with flowers."

Three little boys were talking about how tough they were.

"I'm so tough I wear out a pair of shoes every week," one declared.

"Why, that's nothing," said the second. "I wear out a pair of blue jeans every day."

"You guys aren't so tough," piped up the third. "I wear out my Grandma and Grandpa in an hour!"

The world is always in the worst mess it has ever been in.